

# ECHO IRELAND

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2014 - 82 YEARS



South Dublin Radio Club  
Experimental ATV Repeater



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Brian Canning EI8IU
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## Silent Key

### Peter Mercer GI4VIV



The death occurred on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014 in a Belfast hospital of Pete Mercer GI4VIV. Pete was born in England in 1944 and joined the Army on leaving school. He later moved to Northern Ireland where he served in the Police until his retirement.

Pete was a keen DXer and a very proficient CW operator and well-known in GI amateur radio circles.

In 2007 he was a member of the IRTS DXpedition team to Swaziland and was active as 3DA0GI. Pete was always a willing volunteer to man the IRTS stand at Friedrichshafen.

In addition to membership of IRTS he was also a member of RSGB and the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society. Pete was predeceased by his wife Esme on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014 and is survived by his daughters Susan and Andrea and grandchildren William and Sophie.

*May he rest in peace*

## Silent Key

### Harry Hewson EI1387

The death has occurred earlier this year of Harry Hewson an SWL member of IRTS.

Harry enjoyed his hobby very much and would many enjoyable hours at the radio.

His interest began in the 1930s and stayed with him all his life.

*May he rest in peace*

## Silent Key

### Dan Lloyd EI3AE

The death has occurred of Dan Lloyd EI3AE. Dan was in the Dept of Posts and Telegraphs and then the Department of Communications in its various guises. Dan used to set the essay type papers for the then Experimenter Licence Examination and many of today's amateurs will have had their Morse tests carried out by Dan.

Dan spent some time working in Canada and visited the site of the Marconi Station at Glace Bay.

Dan was IRTS Chief Morse examiner and an active member of the Phoenix Radio Club. Jim Smith EI4CP IRTS Vice President had the distinction of having a QSL card from Dan on an occasion when Dan was operating the Department of Posts and Telegraphs experimenter station EI6CP.

*May he rest in peace*

Please send your input for Echo Ireland to [newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie)  
The deadline for the March 2015 issue is 28th February

## IRTS Regional Representatives

Regional Representatives act as liaison between members/clubs in their respective regions and the IRTS Committee. Feel free to contact them if you have any issue to raise or suggestion to make about IRTS or its activities.

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# **Report on the 23rd IARU Region 1 General Conference Varna-Albena, Bulgaria 20-27 September 2014**

**Seán Nolan EI7CD**

*IRTS was represented at the Conference by IRTS President Séamus McCague EI8BP and Seán Nolan EI7CD IRTS - IARU Liaison. This is Seán's report to the Committee.*

The Conference is organised through four Committees C2 – Credentials and Finance (6 papers), C3 General Administration and Organisation (41 papers), C4 HF Matters (19) papers and C5 VHF/UHF and Microwave Matters (35 papers). There are also a number of Plenary sessions in the course of the Conference. The meetings of the Committees are staggered so it is just about possible with two delegates to cover all of the meetings.

The C2 Committee is elected at the first plenary meeting of all delegates and consists of an elected Chairman and not more than one delegate from each of six different Member societies. The President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Executive Committee are ex officio members of the Committee to provide information. Any delegation head of a Member Society may attend meetings of this committee as an observer. The purpose of this Committee is to establish the credentials and voting rights of delegations, to examine the financial situation of the Region including the audited accounts for the three years 2011 to 2013 as well as the proposed budgets for 2015, 2016 and 2017. The cost of running the Region in 2013 was about €170,500.

So far as other Committees are concerned some papers present alternate views from a number of countries on the same topic. Often it is a matter of listening to and contributing to the discussion to seek to arrive at a consensus or ultimately voting having considered the arguments pro and con advanced at the meeting.

There were representatives of forty three Member Societies present and a further seventeen were represented by proxies. IRTS held the proxy for Bahrain. The Society was represented by the President, Séamus EI8BP and by Seán EI7CD the IARU Liaison Officer. Dave Court EI3IO was also present at the conference having been invited by IARU to act as Secretary to Committee C5 dealing with VHF/UHF/Microwave matters.



*Séamus EI8BP, Ivan LZ1IK, Seán EI7CD*

At the opening plenary meeting delegates were welcomed by the President of the Bulgarian Federation of Radio Amateurs (BFRA). Tim Ellam president of IARU mentioned the challenges ahead among them of course WRC-15 and our objectives of preserving our present frequency allocations and hopefully securing a new HF band in the region of 5 MHz. A representative of the Bulgarian telecommunications Regulator spoke of the excellent relations between BFRA and the Regulator. He mentioned that 5MHz and 70 MHz were already available and stated that the educational and scientific aspects of amateur radio were well recognised. There was a video message from Dr. Hamadoun Touré HB9EHT the ITU Secretary General. In his message he stated that IARU was a valuable member of the ITU family and was recognised as an important public service. He went on to say that it was an important means of technical self-training and was a valuable national resource providing support and relief in cases of disasters. Finally he asked for events to be organised to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the ITU next year. A message was read from Dr. Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. The message indicated that in a time when the world is so well connected by communications media, when all else fails there is a last resort, the radio amateurs who are the eyes and ears of the world when all other information channels are silent. The importance of unity was pointed out in the message where it stated that when organised in a Union radio amateurs are a communications superpower in times of total electronic darkness.

IRTS went to the Conference with three main objectives, firstly to get Dave Court EI3IO elected to the Region 1 Executive Committee, secondly to have the Conference adopt a position on remote controlled operation based on two papers on the topic submitted by IRTS and finally to seek to host the 2017 Conference in Ireland. We were successful in the first two of these but unfortunately we were seriously out priced on the cost of the conference which will now be held near Munich in Germany.

On the remote controlled operation the following recommendation was adopted for publication in the HF and VHF Managers Handbooks following discussion at a drafting group chaired by IRTS and to which IRTS submitted a draft input document:

## **Remote Controlled Operation**

Remote controlled operation is defined to mean operation where a licensed operator controls an amateur radio station from a remote control terminal.

Where a station is operated remotely, the following conditions shall apply:

1. Remote operation must be permitted, or not objected to, by the Regulatory Authority of the country where the station is located.
2. The call sign to be used should be the call sign issued by the Regulatory Authority of the country in which the station is located. This applies irrespective of the location of the operator.
3. It should be noted that Recommendation SC11\_C4\_07 states that member societies bring to their members attention that the T/R 61-01 agreement only applies to people using their own call sign, with the appropriate country pre-fix, when the operator is actually visiting



that country, not for remote operation.

- Any further requirements regarding the participation of remotely controlled stations in contests or award programmes are a matter for the various contest or award programme organisers.

Progress was made at the conference on a number of topics that are of key concern to radio amateurs. This came from getting people together over several days and facing the realities that we need to protect our spectrum as well as address the declining numbers of active Radio Amateurs.

The Conference reviewed the strategy of IARU Region 1, its finances and membership. Other matters reviewed includes the work of a number of permanent Committees, Working Groups and coordinators, including EMC, Political Relations, Emergency Communications, Youth, ARDF, Development of Amateur Radio in developing countries, Spectrum development and protection via ITU, CEPT and the World Radiocommunication Conferences (External Relations Committee), Intruder Watch, Space and High Speed Telegraphy.

Of particular importance was the amendment of the Terms of Reference for the EMC and Political Relations Committees that now provides a clear requirement for Region 1 to lobby at political, governmental and business levels on matters of EMC and related legislation and standards. The EMC Committee was made a permanent committee of IARU Region 1 just like the HF Committee (C4) or the VHF/UHF/Microwave Committee (C5)

Conference also reviewed policy in the key spectrum areas of LF/HF and VHF/UHF/Microwave. Discussions extended over a range of areas, including band planning, contests, remote controlled operation and innovative developments in the areas of satellites and digital TV. The position on future World Communications Conferences was also discussed.

Conference considered and made recommendations in the areas of trans-border QSL management, responsible QSLing, malicious QRM, Youth initiatives, copyright and article reproduction and CW procedures.

A full report of the proceedings of the final Plenary will be published in due course on the IARU Region 1 web site at [www.iaru-r1.org](http://www.iaru-r1.org)

The Region 1 Roy Stevens, G2BVN, Memorial Trophy was awarded to Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, for his meritorious service to amateur radio over many years. Gaston was the chairman of the Eurocom Working Group and then the chairman of the ARSPEX Working Group.

A new Executive Committee was elected during the Final Plenary of the 23rd IARU Region 1 General Conference. The Executive Committee for 2014 to 2017, who will start their term of office on 31 October 2014, are

President: Don Beattie G3BJ  
Vice President: Faisal Al-Ajmi 9K2RR  
Treasurer: Eva Thiemann HB9FPM  
Secretary: Dennis Green ZS4BS

Members:

Thilo Kootz DL9KCE  
David Court EI3IO  
Oliver Tabakovski Z32TO  
Ivan Stauning OZ7IS  
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As mentioned earlier the 24th IARU Region 1 General Conference will be held in September 2017 in Wildbad Kreuth, near Munich, Germany, hosted by the DARC.

The overall cost of sending two delegates to the conference was about €2,700. This represents paying about a euro from each member's subscription per year into the Conference fund.

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## Visit to Bletchley Park

### Anthony Dolan EI6GGB

As I was visiting family and friends in UK and had some time on my hands, I decided to take a trip to Bletchley Park which is in Milton Keynes, approximately one hour drive from London. I had read articles regarding Bletchley Park and on how important their work was to the Second World War. Everything there is set as it was during the War. They provide an interactive tour around the base showing the various machines and computers they used to crack the Enigma Machine.

RSGB has set up the National Radio Centre in the grounds. It is a world class radio communications educational centre. I got the opportunity to operate their permanent station GB3RS which is activated every weekend by local RSGB volunteers.



For those with an interest in history the film "The Imitation Game" is currently on release and tells the story of the Code Breakers.

I would highly recommend people to visit Bletchley.

*Editor's Note:* Bletchley Park is less than 45 minutes by car from Luton airport—served by Ryanair. There are also fast rail connections to Milton Keynes from London. RSGB members may download a free admission voucher from [rsgb.org](http://rsgb.org). The RSGB's annual convention in October, also in Milton Keynes, gives an opportunity to include a trip to Bletchley. You should allow a full day as there's a lot to see.

# EJ1Y/EJ0PL Basket Experience 2014

## Ark Szpunar EI9KC

The Papa Lima DX Group was active from EU-007 for the IOTA Contest 2014 and afterwards as an activation. We decided on the Basket DXpedition last year shortly after our IOTA operation in EU-006. We had operated from the Baskets before but we were determined that this time things would be different.

Some of our members had activated the Great Basket more than once. For instance, this was my fourth visit to the island, having been active there twice before. We knew what we had to do to obtain a better performance - we had to find a clearer path for our signals to North America.

This year's team consisted of Michal EI3KG, Adam EI5JQ, Alain F5JTV, Antoine F5RAB, Jacek M0PLX, Artur SP3CW, Dave EI9FBB, Sean EI4GK, Diesel the dog, and myself.

The easiest way to activate the island is to remain in the "Old Village" close to the pier. However, this location is at the foot of a mountain and closed to the north-west. Before beginning our preparations we paid a visit to the island in September of last year. We identified a suitable QTH, about 1Km away from the landing pier, but how were we to move all our equipment - amounting to one ton - across the rough ground to the QTH. Following enquiries we discovered that there was an ancient Quad Bike and trailer on the island and we obtained permission to use it. Several round-trips later, with the help of some human pushing and pulling, all our gear had been delivered to our chosen site.

The first job was to build our large tent. This tent initially provided cover for all our boxes and personal belongings but was later to become our shack. Following this the personal



*From Left: EI9KC, EI9FBB, EI3KG, EI5JQ, F5RAB, SP3CW, F5JTV, M0PLX, EI4GK*

tents were erected and the kitchen area was organised. That was Thursday 24th July - a long day for everybody!

The next day was devoted to antenna building. First erected was the SP7IDX Hexbeam covering six bands 20m to 6m. Then followed the two Yagis, each with 3 elements and operating on 3 bands supported by 10m masts. These were followed by single band verticals for 80M, 40M. and 30M. Our site was large enough to ensure very little interaction between the antennas. The second day finished with all antennas erected and stations set-up, network connections complete, and internet working. Another busy day, but we had to make sure that everything was working. IOTA Contest tomorrow!

EJ1Y was our Contest Call for IOTA 2014. This was the second time the call went on air. The first time was on Inishmore EU-006 last year. We operated 2 hour shifts. I was initially on the run station, calling CQ then on the multiplier station chasing those important multipliers. We changed several things this year based on our experience in previous years. However, contesting from an island can be very challenging. For example, losing power or a rotator in the middle of the night can have a significant impact on the station's final score. This year, we were lucky!

After the Contest we changed our call to EJ0PL and there followed a very relaxing operation from Great Basket Island on several bands and modes. Dave EI9FBB was our designated 6M operator and he was watching carefully for a band opening. Yes, he found one before the end of the week. We also operated RTTY - probably the first time RTTY transmissions were made from EU-007. I enjoyed operating both CW and SSB from the island. In particular, on one night I had a great pile-up from the USA. I worked several hundred stations from right across the States, many from the West Coast.

The statistics show that we worked 2,700 QSOs in the IOTA Contest as EJ1Y and a further 15,000 as EJ0PL during the remainder of the week. I had the pleasure of being active on EJ0PL for 33 hours in total, during which I worked 2147

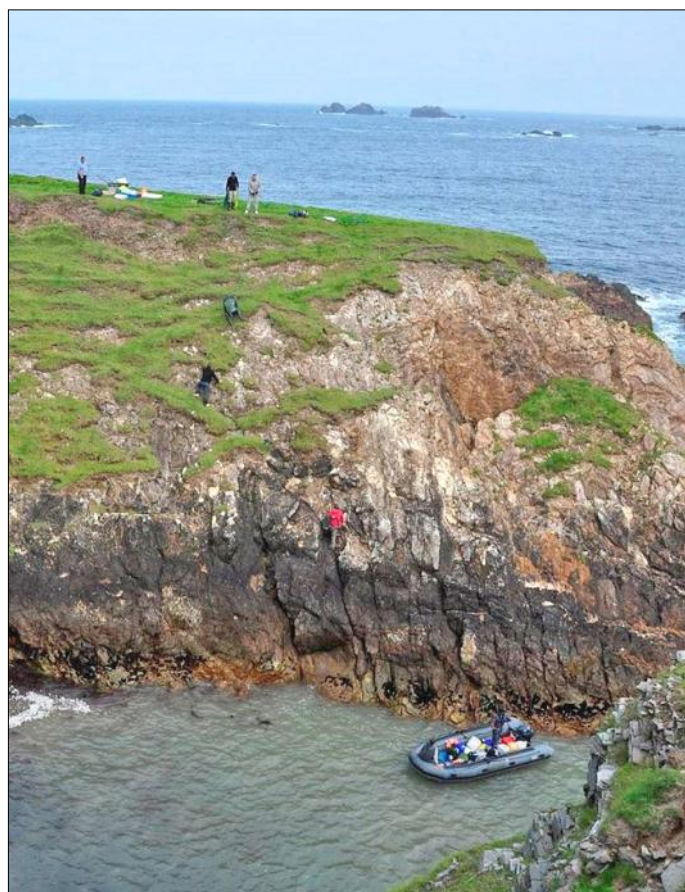


*Radio Shack tent*





*Moving boxes from pier on the Island*



*Departure : EU-189 training*

QSOs between CW and SSB. I wish I could have the same signals from Japan in my home QTH as I had on the island. We had an open sea path to Japan with signals on 40M stronger than from EU!!!

All too soon, the day before departure dawned! We dropped most of the antennas, leaving only the HEXbeam and 30M and 40M verticals for the final night. EJ0PL went QRT just after midnight on 31st July 2014. Departure went quicker than arrival but was just as difficult. As we awaited the arrival of the Quad, we were able to lower some of our lighter equipment into a dingy at the bottom of a cliff. This was subsequently referred to as “early preparation for a trip to Rockall EU-189!”

During all our stay on Great Blasket we were blessed by great weather. Ok, it was a bit foggy some days and we had a little rain on the day before departure but overall the weather was fantastic. Departure day was dry. We reached the pier at Ventry safe and dry only to hear our boatman say as we departed “I hope I won’t have to deal with you lot again”

As I write this, the preliminary results of IOTA 2014 have just been published. EJ1Y achieved 2nd place in the DX Islands category. This represents our best performance ever in the competition and one of which we are very proud.



*Another QUAD run ready to go*



*Overview campsite*



*EI5JQ and EI9FBB running IOTA Contest 2014*



# EI7DAR/P at the County Louth Agricultural Show

**Brian Whelan EI8EJB**

The Dundalk Amateur Radio Society planned and put on air a demonstration station at the Co. Louth Agricultural Show, the largest annual public event staged in the North East. For the past couple of years, the venue for the show has been in the expansive grounds of Belurgan Park, which is located just a few kilometres north east of Dundalk on the Cooley peninsula. The show had many varied exhibitions such as show jumping and other agricultural themed trade displays, but also had many other styles of exhibits and trade displays, both commercial and non-commercial. Most years see thousands of people attending the show and this year proved no different with approximately 10,000 visitors arriving in a continuous stream from early morning.

We planned and prepared for the portable operation well in advance and so on the evening before the show, some members of DARS arrived at our allocated plot and placed a folded down mobile tower there "to stake our claim", so to speak. The remainder of the installation was planned to take place on the following morning.

At the ungodly hour of 9am on Fathers Day, June 15th, DARS members met near Belurgan Park and drove, in convoy, the short distance to the site in the park. The voluntary stewards were both courteous and professional in guiding our convoy into the already busy site.



Over the next two hours or so, EI7DAR/P was put together by the following members; Brian EI8EJB, Thos EI2JD, Jim EI2HJB, Hugh EI9KF, Tom EI9CJ, Pat EI2HX, Seán EI4IP, Michael EI1623 and Kieran EI9DA. Tents and gazebos were erected; the mobile tower was cranked up and raised to its full height which supported a 5 band HexBeam, as well as the apex point of an 80m inverted V dipole and finally a folded dipole for 2m.

The radios that were set up in the tent to operate on HF were an Elecraft K3, a Kenwood TS-2000 and an Icom 756 Pro. Operation on VHF was courtesy of a Yaesu FT-736. AC power was supplied by a portable generator and it wasn't long before the passing public were treated to the mysterious sounds of CW and phone drifting out of the open tents. The HexBeam certainly drew the attention of quite a few people who asked what "the clothes line thingy" was for.

A tripod mounted CrankIR vertical antenna, from the ever expanding product range by SteppIR, was also erected during the afternoon and set up to operate on 40m. The unusual appearance of this antenna was also the talking point of many inquisitive visitors who couldn't quite believe that it was an antenna!



Banners were erected outside the station promoting both the IRTS and our own club. On display around the operating tent were many of the framed contest awards and certificates that DARS had won and achieved in recent years which brought a professional look to an amateur (*in name only!*) hobby.



*Brian EI8EJB tightens the last bolt*



Morse practice buzzers were set up which tempted the curious, young and old, to try to tap out letters in Morse with the aid of Morse code printed sheets. Electronic oscillator kits were also available for anyone who wanted to try their constructional skills.

Using just 100 W into the HexBeam and the 80m dipole, many stations were worked on HF using CW and phone, while 25W on 2m FM was adequate to demonstrate simplex and repeater operation. EchoLink contacts were made using RF through our EI2MOG gateway, but being located at the south facing foot of the Cooley mountains, our path to the north was screened to access the D-STAR repeater, GB7NI, to establish D-STAR contacts.

It was quite enjoyable to operate in a relaxed, non-contest style, which allowed our members to dedicate plenty of time explaining our station to the visiting public, which of course was the main aim of our day; that was to promote Amateur Radio, the IRTS and, of course, our own club. Professionally printed information leaflets, which gave details about the



The whole day was deemed to have been a complete success by everyone involved; we had achieved our goal of demonstrating and promoting Amateur Radio to many people. Of course the portable operation couldn't have just happened without the excellent team work of the DARS members.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the management staff of the Co. Louth Agricultural Show for firstly allowing us to set up our station at the show and secondly for addressing our unusual requests, such as finding suitable anchor point locations for the ends of the 80m inverted V dipole!

Thanks also to Mark EI9FX and Richard MI3CQR for providing some equipment used on the day. Many thanks to all who took part or who helped out in any way to have made our outing at the Co. Louth Agricultural Show the success it was. The Dundalk Amateur Radio Society is already looking forward to putting EI7DAR/P on air again as soon as possible.



*Jim EI2HJB with HEXBeam*

hobby, were available outside the entrance area of our station so that visitors could take a leaflet as they entered our station or as they just passed by.

The one factor which of course was beyond our control was, of course, the weather, but we were blessed by having one of the hottest and sunniest days so far this year, as can be seen from the photographs. This made assembly, operation and disassembly of the station that bit easier. By 6pm, the entire station, including the mobile mast, had been carefully packed away; our allocated grass site was left just as we found it.



*Kieran EI9DA and Brian EI8EJB*



*Thos EI2JD*



# Limerick Radio Club Activity 2014

## Simon Kenny EI7ALB

### HAREC Course

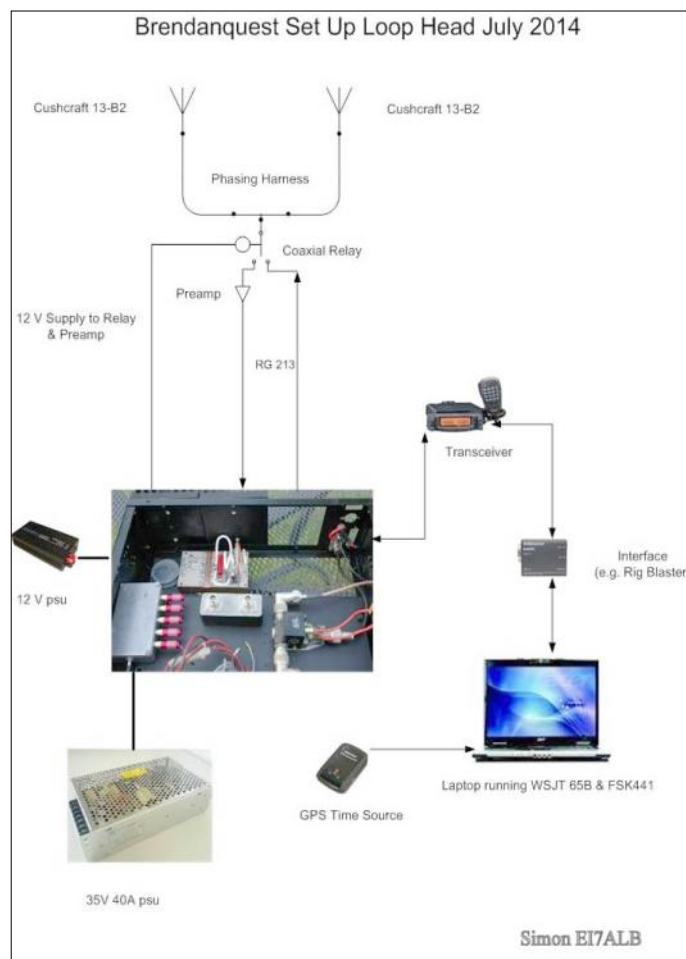
The club ran a 10-week course in Limerick Institute of Technology to prepare students for the IRTS HAREC exam in May. We congratulate those who were successful and we wish the best of luck to those who are planning to repeat the exam. Mike EI2IX, Ger EI4GXB, Liam EI7DSB, and Simon EI7ALB presented the course material.

### Limerick City of Culture 2014

To celebrate Limerick City of Culture 2014, the club sought and was granted a unique call sign from ComReg. EI14LRCC took to the air in February. Club members Brendan EI0CZ on CW, Alan EI8EM and Ger EI4GXB on voice have been clocking up the QSOs.

### Brendanquest

The Canadians sent a power point presentation, 'Trans-Atlantic Presentation', to the IRTS AGM in Galway. The presentation outlined their plans, using the call sign VCIT, to bridge the Atlantic on 2 metres under the IRTS Brendan Awards Challenge. A web site was set up see [www.brendanquest.org](http://www.brendanquest.org) and a Yahoo group formed for the event. The attempt was scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July. This was too good an opportunity for LRC to pass up, especially since the club had already gained some experience from an attempt during August 2013 from Loop Head, in cooperation with our twinned club in South Jersey.



### IL&LW

Loop Head was again the location for the IL&LW in August. The club operated two stations, one at the base of the Lighthouse where the public could see and hear live ops. The second station was located in the former Light Keepers' Lookout Room. Almost 800 QSOs across 67 entities were clocked up from the Friday to the Sunday evening and over 200 hundred members of the public saw the HF Station in operation.

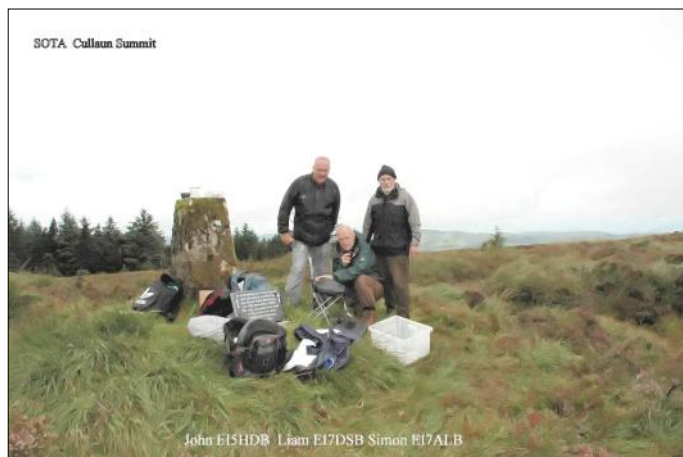
During the Brendanquest attempt in July, Brendan EI0CZ was testing a Cushcraft A3 HF antenna and found that due to QRM, 20m was unusable. This problem could have a serious impact on the Club's IL&LW event in August. A quick rough check showed that the peak of the QRM transmission centred on 13.5 Mhz. Further investigation and enquiries proved that the problem lay with the proximity of LRC antenna to a newly installed HF Radar wave height monitoring system at



A lot was learned from that attempt which helped in preparing for the challenge led by VCIT. LRC's previous attempt highlighted the need for a new 2m Linear Amp as the Dressler 200/S, used in 2013, was beginning to sweat after a relatively short time of almost 50% duty cycle. Two club members set about building solid-state linear amps. They were completed during the final week leading up to the attempt.

The club operated continuously, from Loop Head, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July using JT65B and FSK441. In the true spirit of Amateur Radio many members contributed various items such as test equipment, pre amps, coax relays, GPS timer, Laptops, rigs, PSUs and a veritable 'mares nest' of connections to make up the final system. Two phased Cushcraft antenna were used on the club's pump up mast.





Loop Head called CODAR. Altogether, there are four HF monitoring units located in the wider Galway Bay area. See <http://marei.ie/coastal-observing-radar-system/> also <http://www.codar.com/SeaSonde.shtml>.

A satisfactory resolution was found and the Club wishes to sincerely thank NUIG for switching off the wave height monitoring equipment during IL&LW and to the Commissioners for Irish Lights for facilitating our request for a resolution to the problem. It should be noted that the problem was due to the proximity of the antenna to each other (circa 50m) and consequently direct break through to the two LRC HF rigs.

The club is also grateful to Clare Co Council whose PRO used the weekend to advertise our presence at the lighthouse across local and national newspapers and we also got our '10 minutes of fame' on 3 local broadcast stations.



## Atlantic AirVenture

Atlantic AirVenture Day in Shannon was another opportunity to bring Amateur Radio to the public. The club ICOM Pro Rig and a G5RV were used and while conditions were very poor; there were many visitors to the station.

## IRLP

The club decided to port IRLP onto the Raspberry Pi (PiIRLP). A quick back of the envelope calculation showed that the electricity bill was about €280 p.a. while running h24 365 on the existing desk top PC system. IRLP was successfully ported to a Raspberry Pi and is running since August - thanks to Liam EI7DSB for his efforts.

## SOTA

SOTA was one of the objectives set for club members in 2014. Thanks to Liam EI7DSB who kicked off the activity by activating Cullaun Summit in July. Club members have since activated several summits in the region with plans to achieve even greater heights during 2015. SOTA is challenging but is a most enjoyable activity that deserves more support.



## Slow & Fast Morse Transmissions

Brendan EI0CZ continues to send Morse transmissions on 2m every Monday evening after the news at 20:00 and again on Thursday at 20:00. The session begins with slow Morse transmissions followed by fast Morse for the more advanced. Listening to Brendan beats listening to one of the many self-tutorials on the net. The transmissions will continue into December.

Great credit is due to all Limerick Radio Club members who gave of their time and effort in maintaining a vibrant club while promoting the hobby.

## PJ7PK – Pelikan Key, NA-247 NEW IOTA

Dave Deane EI9FBB

Eleven new IOTA Island groups were announced at IOTA's 50th Anniversary Convention in July 2014. One of them, NA-247, was added as a group with split sovereignty - Dutch Sint Maarten (PJ7) & French Saint Martin (FS). These islands were not previously shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map but now qualified from being identified on Google Earth. The two islands are Molly Beday and Guana Key of Pelikan, aka Pelikan Key. The latter was our choice for activation. We knew it would be tough, but still easier than Molly. Col, MM0NDX was the brains behind this, and did trojan work behind the scenes. No one had activated this group, and the local Sint Maarteniens don't even land there. Still, this didn't deter us and after concrete plans were in place, the team was formed; Dom 3Z9DX, Dave EI9FBB, Jeremy EI5GM, Frans J69DS & Col MM0NDX. Each team member played an important part, and each had their responsibilities. Activating a brand new IOTA group was going to be fun, great fun, almost like activating a brand new DXCC entity. A lot of thought had to go into this project in order to try meet the demands. Imagine a rock, with steep jagged sides jutting up out of the ocean, intimidating us and practically warning us off.

Frans dealt with the relevant licencing authorities to secure our licence - we applied for **PJ7PK (Pelican Key)**. Dates agreed, flights booked, stations prepared and most importantly, we had a foolproof plan in mind (or did we)?

The plan was to have a boat anchored close to the rock. This would be our base, our home, and our means of commuting to and from the rock. Though, what looked like just a few hundred metres on Google maps turned out to be a little over 3 nautical miles from our departure point. Simpson Bay, Philipsburg, has to be one of the most 'flushest' marinas in the world. Hundreds of cruise ships visit each season. There are many marinas overflowing with yachts and pleasure boats of all types. As it was out of season we knew, from the many charter websites, there would be plenty of boats - and we wanted a couple that suited our needs exactly.

A lot of preparation, research went into this project. Stations were set up, logging programmes checked, antennas built and tested, and packed away only when we were satisfied that everything was 100% in order. Waterproof protective padded hard plastic cases are essential. These are heavy though and don't be long using up one's minimal airline baggage allowance. We all got hit with excess baggage charges, however everything arrived on the day and in perfect condition.

After several false starts in searching for suitable boats, we headed back to the marina where we had earlier seen a sign for private boat charter. They did have their own big rib that could be hired. Expensive? Yes, and we had to use their captain! This was a serious rib, with twin 400 HP Yamahas on the back, and used for private hire for cruise ship passengers. Every second day a cruise ships arrive, but that day there was none - they could take us out to Pelikan for a



recce. In less than an hour, we had been to the rock, circled it several times, photographed it, identified a possible landing spot and returned. Two boats would be needed, one to bring us out and a smaller one to get in close to the rocks.

It was not to be, our schedule slipped by a day, and the rib was needed for cruise passengers. Now, the only option was a boat we had previously rejected. It was now or never. We loaded up this boat the following morning with Dom and Frans in tow behind in a small rib, and headed towards Pelikan. We made good progress and slowed right down next to this rock. The locals turned to us and asked, are you sure this is the place? Why would anyone want to overnight here? Our planned landing spot was now under almost two meters of swell. The risk of bursting the small rib was too high to attempt to land. Another spot, with a ten-foot gap between two rocks was a possible option, and this is when Jeremy dived into the sea and swam ashore, closely followed by Frans who was equally crazy.

We had been warned to use protective footwear at all times because of poisonous sea urchins. The first rock you land on is at a 45 degree angle, wet and covered in seaweed. If you fall and do yourself an injury, it will be very difficult for you to be rescued. Still though, three of our men were now on the rock. Jeremy and Frans surveyed the rock closely, looking for an easier landing spot. There was none. They decided there was no possible way to land all five guys and equipment. At that very moment, Col recognised that the hardest bit was actually done - two of us were already safe on the rock. If we could get one complete station to them, they could make the minimum required 1000 QSOs. I had repacked my case earlier that morning to have one complete station ready in one





case. If we could land a generator first, we could land other equipment. At this stage, Dom and Jeremy were waiting to be collected and to be brought back. Instead they were been thrown a generator and, moments later, it was on the rock. Frans went backwards and forwards many times that afternoon, handing equipment to Dom and from Dom to Jeremy.

Meanwhile Col and I were busy getting another station together. Yes, it was still going to be a compromise but....two stations are better than one! We knew at this stage that the complete team could not land. We needed a ground crew, this is something that we hadn't thought about. If all 5 of us had been on the rock, there was no-one to organise a way to get us off. Col volunteered to stay behind along with Frans, who would drive the rib back to the mainland. We also needed someone competent enough to come back out again in case of emergency and to come to recover us. I was the last person to get onto that rib and to go ashore onto that cursed rock. As Jeremy, Dom and I watched Frans and Col disappear into the horizon, we immediately began the station set-up. We needed to make that required 1000 QSOs without knowing when we were going to be collected. Our original plan came into action. The only CW station was going to be on 30m, with 20 & 17m on SSB. This would give pretty much 24 hour propagation into most parts of the globe.

I was the first station QRV on 17m SSB. The band was alive. Our vertical dipole was going to 'rock this rock'! In fact, the band was so busy it was hard to find a clear frequency. Twelve minutes of unanswered CQs got me frustrated. Was the antenna not working? Had I microphone problems? One way to find out. I scanned the band and found two loud stations in QSO, broke in and asked for a report. PA2LO was most helpful and obliged. In fact, Gert was waiting for our activation, and he kindly agreed to spot us on the DX cluster. Moments later all hell broke loose and the fun began. It was at this moment I was reminded why exactly I do this DXpeditioning lark! The pure adrenalin rush of a pile-up. They were huge, most enjoyable and, surprisingly well-behaved. We had openings into all continents at once - and high rates. Jeremy was also QRV at this stage and running 30m CW with equally good propagation and pile-ups.

Life on the island was not pretty. We set up between two giant boulders, with an uneven surface with previous rock fall. It was also hot - 41 degrees at one stage, a dead heat with

high humidity. There was no shade, we had a tent but that was hotter still. Our bottled water was warm, with no way to keep it cool. Basically, we were exposed to all the elements. Near midnight, with both stations in full swing, Jeremy spotted a boat coming straight in our direction. It looked like a police boat - we were in trouble. A quick check of the log showed little over 900 QSOs, and we needed 1000. The police circled the rock but couldn't get ashore. Dom suggested we call them on channel 16. It was the coastguard, and they were concerned for our safety. Once they knew that we actually had permission to be there, and knew what we were doing, they reminded us to call them again if there was an emergency and went on their way.

Operations continued throughout the night and, and before we knew it, we were well past the required 1000 mark. Time goes by remarkably quickly when running at this speed, and almost before we knew it, the sun was rising. We had survived the night on Pelikan. We knew we had been fortunate, and decided to count our blessings and not risk another night. We closed down at 13:24 with EI8BLB being the last station in the log.

Now, of course there was a sudden rush to dismantle the equipment and pack up. We were careful to take everything, this is a wildlife reserve after all. The only way to offload the equipment was for the three of us to go waist deep in the water and form a chain. Col was on the rib with Frans. We passed each case and each precious piece of equipment to him and after a few slips and a little foul language, it was all safely transferred. Everyone got off safely, but exhausted. Back in port, we donated the leftover equipment and generators to the locals who had helped us.

To some, this DXpedition looked easy. Were the difficulties over exaggerated? Those who followed us on Twitter saw only nice blue skies. We were thankful we had not been exposed to thunderstorms while on the rock. The day after we flew home, hurricane Gonzalo hit Simpson Bay with winds of 125 mph. There were more than 12 people injured, over 30 boats sank, severe structural damage, one man confirmed dead and several still missing.

We achieved what we set out to do. We activated the new IOTA, with 2,200 QSOs in a little over 17 hours. We thank our sponsors and individual donors for helping to offset our costs. The job of QSLing is just beginning for Dom, 3Z9DX and the QSLs will be available shortly. Thanks to everyone who called us and thanks to the IOTA committee who have already approved and validated this operation. For video footage, photos, on-line log and more, visit our website [www.pj7pk.net](http://www.pj7pk.net)





# HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

OK. Here goes. This has to be done, for the sake of my sanity. This month, I want to talk about an aspect of our hobby that is never too far from any operator's mind, but particularly those who operate on HF, and especially those who, like myself, chase DX. It's an aspect of our hobby that perhaps isn't discussed to the extent that it needs to be; and it's an aspect of our hobby that threatens to ruin it for us all.

I am, of course, talking about QRM.

Those three letters, known in the ham vernacular as "Q R Mexico" or "Q R Mary", conjure up a lot of ideas in the heads of radio amateurs. But mostly, they conjure up annoyance and upset and negativity.

Now I want to make one thing clear. While we are not supposed to cause interference to another radio amateur, sometimes it happens. And sometimes it happens quite accidentally. You know how it goes. You listen to the DX station, you hear him call "up" and then you go and search for the actual split with your second VFO. All fine so far. You hear a lot of activity on SSB usually five kHz up, or on CW maybe one, two or more kHz up. Great. If you're lucky, and with patience, you'll hear someone giving him the "five nine thank you" or a "5NN TU" on CW. Then, in your excitement, you forget to press the split button on the front of the rig. Oh dear. After two or three calls, you begin to hear "EI UP UP" or something similar. With any luck, and if sanity prevails, you'll hear just the word "UP" once or twice, you'll press the split button, and with a slightly red face and with a small wedge of humble pie between your teeth, you'll start calling on the split instead of QRMing the dx station.

That is accidental QRM. We've all done it. Even you. Yes, you. Admit it!!

Unfortunately, some people don't take the hint. So you might hear, for instance, an OK station or an EA station, or who knows, maybe even a German station, calling on the simplex frequency. After the first "UP UP", perhaps he hasn't heard or understood properly and continues to call simplex. That's when the policemen come out of the shadows.

No, not law enforcement officers with badges and pepper spray. The frequency police. The guys who are perfect operators and who never cause QRM and who would never dream of calling on the simplex frequency. Never would they ever, ever, even think for a moment, of ever calling over a DX station. Would they?

By heck they would. And sometimes, while the original QRMer figures out how to use his rig properly, the police unleash a torrent of abuse upon the poor unfortunate. Here as a small selection of the things you might hear them say to get the attention of the QRMing station:

"He's listening up, you idiot!"

"Split, split, up, up, up five to ten. Listen, listen!"

"Italy Zulu Eight why don't you get a receiver installed in

your radio and start listening before you call." And other such long-winded insults that cause more QRM than the poor guy who forgot to press the split button.

Of course, there are operators causing QRM who just seem to be devoid of any listening ability. They are the ones who not only call on the simplex frequency, but they call out of turn, perhaps giving an Echo Alpha call while the DX station is calling a Delta Juliet. Worse again are those who call on top of the DX station, as if to indicate that they are completely deaf. Or completely stupid. Or both.

My all-time favourite policeman's insult is "good morning". Often a simplex caller will be greeted by these two words, even if it's 11pm at night. It's the policeman's way of saying "wake up and smell the coffee, he's split", but perhaps in fewer words. (I am not condoning QRM, but I do find this one funny).

You might have seen it on these pages before, but there are those policemen who haunt the world of CW and who just love to call people idiots, whether their QRM transmissions are accidental or not. So you hear the DX station giving his call and "up". Then, for instance, you hear a 9A or a CT call him simplex. Immediately, the frequency comes alive with two or three separate police callers. At least one will use the word "idiot", if not all. For those of you unfamiliar with CW, this word is almost or just as long as most callsigns, and usually it is repeated several times for extra effect! Those kindly policemen whose job it is to inform the accidental QRMer that he or she needs to press the split button do us a great service by completely obliterating the DX station with several long overs consisting of abuse and insults.

"UP UP IDIOT IDIOT UP".

"PSE UP LSN LSN UP UP".

"TNX FER QRM LID LID LID."

Who's the biggest lid or idiot in the above examples?  
Rhetorical question.

Personally (and this is just my own personal opinion, with which you might disagree), I don't have any particular problem with a kind policeman either saying "split" or "up" on SSB or "UP" on CW. Sometimes it helps. The QRMing station will realise their error, and put their split on, and sanity returns. I'd rather hear this simple instruction than a long-winded torrent of abuse. I'd also far rather hear someone say "up" than to listen to the QRMer continue causing interference for the next few minutes. Just my opinion.

But there is a far more sinister and disturbing type of interference, something that is becoming more and more commonplace, especially when large dxpeditions come on the air. This is what we call "deliberate QRM", or DQRM for short. I've only been on the air for five years, and in that short time it has become more and more regular. It's now reached the stage that almost every big DXpedition (and indeed some of the smaller ones) is plagued by DQRM.



The most recent big DXpedition was the FT4TA Tromelin activation. It suffered a fair amount of DQRM. Depending on the band, you might not be able to hear anything because of the DQRM and would have to abandon your effort to work them. It's mostly a problem on CW, where a person's voice is not being used and where almost all side tones sound the same. It's almost impossible to identify someone by their CW tone. Not that DQRM doesn't affect SSB – it does. On SSB, the cowardly DQRMer might use a recording of music or perhaps a recording of other hams in a pile-up (anything but their own voice) and re-broadcast it on top of the DX station.

Of particular note in the past couple of years is a station who continually calls CQ on top of DX stations in morse code using the call "EAHSYL". I'm not sure if they're trying to send EA5SYL, but the five never turns out right and at four dits becomes a H instead. Now this person is quite clearly a nutcase. Sorry for the choice language folks, but what other word might we use? This person calls and calls and calls on top of the DX station and never actually works anyone. Their action is aimed purely to cause QRM and annoyance and nothing else. And of course they succeed. A flurry of policemen give the usual abuse in return, sending QRL IDIOT or QSY or UP or any combination of things, resulting in QRM chaos on the QRG, such that nobody can hear anybody.

It is said that we are a self-regulating hobby. Is that such a good idea really? Yes and no. Many of us are overseen by statutory bodies, such as is the case here in Ireland with Comreg. If Comreg are informed of a station causing interference, they are duty-bound to investigate it and take action. However, this usually amounts to an amateur radio station causing interference, say, to a neighbour's TV reception or their surround sound system.

Thankfully, we don't appear to have a problem in Ireland with DQRM, or at least that's my own impression and hopefully I'm right. But clearly there are some habitual DQRMers out there in different European countries. A German station who spotted EAHSYL during the Tromelin activation said that the QRMing station was at 120 degrees from his station. Surely it's possible for these regular QRMers to be tracked down?

If, for instance, an amateur station was, somehow, causing interference to police radio frequencies, or airport navigational systems, you can bet your bottom dollar they will be located very quickly and put off the air.

However, the national radio bodies and even the statutory authorities in EU countries seem to be either unable or unwilling to tackle the problem of DQRM head on. And if that situation continues, then DQRM will be the ruination of the hobby for many.

There are, I estimate, about a hundred regular Dxers in Ireland currently. Maybe a little bit more than that. But there are probably only a couple of dozen hard-nosed, dedicated Dxers who are consistently calling in the pile-ups for DX. Even the most dedicated of us find it difficult to continue to chase a rare one when the DQRMers are out to play. If you're lucky, the DQRM will stop after a short while when the sociopath who's causing it has to go for lunch or maybe has to leave his/her station. But if you're unlucky, it will continue

for an hour, or more, and in many cases the DQRM signal is far stronger than the DX station, rendering your effort to call them futile.

It's high time that the authorities governing this hobby in Europe took some serious action against the DQRMers. The means and equipment by which such DQRM can be tracked down do actually exist. What does not exist right now, apparently, is the will to go after them.

If this does not happen, our hobby is in real danger of being ruined. I know lots of Dxers here in Ireland who have expressed dismay about the situation, and many of them are wondering what's the point chasing DX when it's covered over by QRM.

What's needed at this stage, because the problem has become so serious, is for a couple of high-profile punishments. Track down some of the habitual DQRMers and punish them severely. Take their licence off them, confiscate their equipment, and, if the legal mechanism exists, fine them and even consider a custodial sentence. And have these cases widely publicised in the media and especially on ham-related websites and in hobby publications. That's the only way this issue is going to be properly dealt with. Take the worst offenders off the air and send out a warning that this sort of behaviour on the air is not going to be tolerated any more.

### Recent DX

Because of the length of the above section on DQRM, I will keep the "recent DX" section of the column short this month. There has been plenty of DX in the past couple of months, with several large DXpeditions and of course the usual smattering of smaller activations.

Some of the activations worthy of mention include the ZD9 Tristan de Cunha activation during September. Nigel G3TXX was active as ZD9XF on CW and Paul ZS1S was active as ZD9ZS on SSB. Nigel is a superb operator and seems to have a good filter for the G and EI stations HI HI. I worked Nigel on five bands, but unfortunately missed 80m CW, although a few EIs did nab him on that band. I also worked Paul on three bands, so I was delighted to fill out eight slots with these guys. Well done to everyone who logged them.

C21GC gave me Nauru as an All-Time New One (ATNO), #308, in late September. He was very workable on 20 and 30



*Nigel G3TXX heading to Tristan de Cunha*

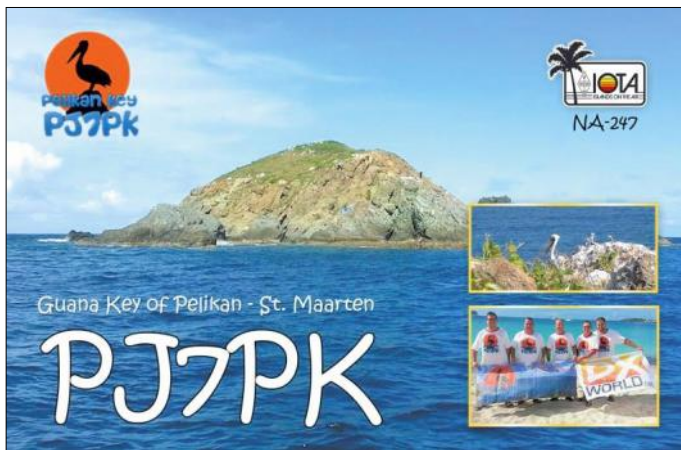
metres CW. I had four slots. Ark EI9KC was top of the EI hams with seven QSOs. Well done Ark.

Christmas Island was activated twice in quick succession. First there was VK9AN in September, who gave me four slots, followed by VK9XSP, a fantastic Polish expedition in October, which gave me another six slots.

Bob G3ZEM was active from 4W Timor Leste in October and gave me four slots, all on CW. Nice to get some slots with this relatively rare one.

Our own Dave EI9FBB and Jeremy EI5GM activated IOTA NA-247 Pelican Key for one day in October. I believe a number of EIs were logged, but sadly I was not one of them. It was a first-time activation of the island, and I believe conditions were challenging. Well done guys and thanks for the effort. I later logged Dave as FJ/EI9FBB on St. Barthelemy.

*See Dave's comprehensive report in this issue of Echo Ireland.*



Around that time, Western Kiribati was on the air thanks to the T30D German team. They gave me a total of six slots, which was fantastic as I had only worked Western Kiribati on two slots previously.

Also in October, the superb Lagunaria DX Group activated Lord Howe Island VK9/L as VK9DLX and they made lots of people very happy, including Don EI6IL who first worked them as an ATNO and then managed another 15 slots with them, finishing top of the EI pile just one QSO ahead of John EI7BA. Well done to both.

Another fabulous activation was that of Madagascar by the 5R8M team. They proved eminently workable from Ireland and I worked them on no fewer than 15 band slots.

The Pacific island of Tokelau was put on the air by two Polish ops as ZK3Q and ZK3E. I managed one QSO with ZK3Q and four with ZK3E which I was delighted with.

### **E30FB Eritrea**

By far the two biggest activations were Eritrea and Tromelin, both of which were in the top ten at the time of their respective activations. Zorro JH1AJT was in Eritrea as part of a Japanese humanitarian delegation and managed to get

permission to operate there. I managed two QSOs with him, the first on 20 metres SSB and the second on 10 metres SSB. Well done to all the EI Dxers who worked him. I'm sure it was an ATNO for many of you, as it was for me. He later confirmed my QSOs on Logbook of the World, and I am awaiting his card in the post. A fuller account of how I worked him is available on my blog at [hamradioireland.blogspot.ie](http://hamradioireland.blogspot.ie)

### **FT4TA Tromelin**

Tromelin lay at eighth on the Clublog.org Most Wanted DXCC list when the small FT4TA team began operating there at the end of October. The pile-ups, as might be expected for something so rare, were enormous. I had a couple of lucky breaks on this one, in that I happened to be on holidays from work on their first full day of operation on Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Much to my delight, I managed to get in their log on 10 metres SSB at quarter past ten that morning, using my lucky Antron 99 vertical, and thus DXCC #309 was in my log. It was fantastic to get them so early on, and took the pressure off. I did, however, manage another eight slots, which was exceptional given my small station. There are no leaderboards on the online Clublog, but I believe I was the second EI after Michal EI3KG who managed 13 slots. Well done Michal. And well done also to both Michal and John EI7BA who were the only EIs to manage a QSO on top band.



### **Forthcoming activations and DX news**

#### **KH5 Palmyra**

There is a possibility that KH5, Palmyra and Jarvis Islands, which are tenth on the most wanted DXCC list, might be activated some time in early 2016, according to a report on the OPDX bulletin. A plan is being worked on with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to accommodate up to 12 amateur radio operators in January or February 2016. The total estimated cost would be \$176,000. We will let you know more if any firm plans are put in place to activate KH5.

#### **KP1 Navassa**

Throughout 2014, Navassa KP1 has been number one on the most wanted DXCC list. Now, thankfully, there are firm plans for a major expedition to Navassa in January next. The K1N team of 15 US operators will put Navassa on the air for a maximum of 14 days, with the exact dates yet to be specified. Keep an eye on the K1N website for further updates at [navassadx.com](http://navassadx.com). Expect huge pile-ups when they come on air!! However, also bear in mind that Navassa is in the Caribbean and should be quite workable from Ireland. And for a change, we are "in front" of Europe for this one, instead of at the back end as we usually are for some of the Indian Ocean and Oceanic operations.



### TI9 Cocos Island

Operators Dom/3Z9DX, Jon/K7CO and Jorge/TI2HMJ will be active as TI9A from Cocos Island (NA-012) between February 16-23<sup>rd</sup> (2015). It has been 6 years since the last TI9 operation, and it is ranked 26th on the most wanted list. Boat trip to the island will take place February 14th (2015), and it takes 30 hours from Costa Rica. Their Radio Permit is issued for seven days only. That means they can operate for only about six days (24h/day operation). They are in possession of the second permit, which allows them to stay on the island overnight. The team will have two radios on the air operating on 80-10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via 3Z9DX, direct, by the Bureau, the OQRS on ClubLog or direct PayPal request (no need to send a paper card). QSL requests with insufficient postage will be returned to the sender via Bureau. They are looking for funds. A survey/vote for bands/modes needs is available at [www.nielsen.net/ti9a](http://www.nielsen.net/ti9a)

### YV0 Aves Island

It is anticipated that members of the Radio Club Venezolano will celebrate their 80th anniversary by organising a dxpedition to Aves Island (IOTA NA-020) sometime very soon. The callsign YV0AI was mentioned, and a QRZ.com page has been set up for it. This tiny sandbar island is also known as Prominencia de Aves. It is thought they are waiting on permission from the Venezuelan Navy. Operators mentioned are YV4JCF, Juan/YV4KW, Daniel/YV4NN, Jesus/YV5CHJ, Wilmer/YV5CWM, Edwin/YV5EN, Fran/YV5EPM, Plutarco/YV5ER, Joe/YV5JAW, Antonio/YV5OIE, Alfredo/YV5SF, Mel/YV6BXN, Reinaldo/YV8AD, Dmitri/RA9USU and Joan/YY5SKA.

### VK0MH Macquarie

Rod Macduff VK6MH (also GM4AWB) reports that he will be active from Macquarie Island (IOTA AN-005) from October 2014 until April 2015. Keep an eye on his QRZ.com page under his proposed callsign VK0MH for more updates. I don't think he has been on the air yet.

### PY0T Trindade Island

As we were going to press, [www.dx-world.net](http://www.dx-world.net) reported on a five-man activation of PY0T Trindade to take place in the second half of 2015. Here's what they report so far: A five-man team plan to be active for four to five days from Trindade Island as PQ0T during the second half of 2015. DX-World has received full details of this DXpedition, but in accordance with their team leader we publish limited info for the moment. Trindade is #30 most wanted on Club Log.

### ZD9A Gough Island

David, ZS1BCE (ex-ZS8Z) will be active as ZD9A from Gough Island (AF-030) after taking over duties from Pierre, ZD9M. He will be QRV on HF bands, as yet operating schedule unknown. QSL via ZS1LS.

If I've missed anything, remember you can catch up with all the latest DX news online at various sources, including DX-world.net, the OPDX bulletin and Mario I2MQP's bulletin (subscribe by sending a request by email to [marioi2mqp@alice.it](mailto:marioi2mqp@alice.it) and of course on the weekly IRTS news bulletins on HF on Sundays and regionally during the week.

### 320 sticker

A quick congratulations to Eoin EI9O on receiving his 320 sticker from the ARRL just as this column was going to press. Keep her lit Eoin. In the next year or so several ATNOs will be active for you and you can make the final push towards the Honour Roll.

That's all for this issue folks. If you would like to tell me about DX news or comment on this column or suggest a topic for the next one, or tell me about the great DX you've been working, please feel free to drop me an email at [hamradioireland@gmail.com](mailto:hamradioireland@gmail.com).

In the meantime, have a Merry Christmas and a HNY (as we say in Morse!)

*Slán go fóil,*  
Anthony EI2KC

## ARRL Recommends Abolition of Non-Assisted Contest Category

*The recommendations are for 50MHz and above. However, if approved, they are likely to set a precedent for HF contesting.*

[www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-input-on-initial-vhf-uhf-microwave-contest-rule-changes](http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-input-on-initial-vhf-uhf-microwave-contest-rule-changes)

The proposal reads

" 1) Removal of the current prohibition on the use of Amateur and non-Amateur forms of assistance for all operator categories, with such use having no impact on entry category;"

In this context, "non-Amateur" means the internet. Here is the proposed change to the ARRL's General Rules for All Contests Above 50MHz.

"All entrants, regardless of category, are permitted to use spotting assistance or nets, including DX-alerting nets, internet chat rooms, packet, reverse beacon networks and repeaters to identify stations available for contacts and to announce (self-spot) their availability for contacts"

In a lengthy piece in the ARRL Contest Update for 19th November, QST Contributing Editor Ward N0AX, supporting the recommendations, argues "Yes, this takes the hybridization of ham radio and the Internet another step farther. No two ways about it. However, in case you hadn't noticed, everything is hybridized with the Internet."

N0AX is mistaken—not everything is hybridised with the internet. These recommendations would apply equally to Single-Op and Multi-Op categories. The net result is that Single-Ops who, for whatever reason, prefer to find and work stations all by themselves would be obliged to use the internet to be competitive.

ARRL members have until 15th December to comment on the recommendations - to [vhf-input@arrl.org](mailto:vhf-input@arrl.org)

## A Message from the President ...

As another year draws to a close I am conscious that this is the final year of my Presidency and I continue to be humbled by the work of our many volunteers. Ours is still an exciting hobby and a broad church. Radio amateurs engage in a wide variety of pursuits. There are those who enjoy contesting and award chasing, those who enjoy construction and experimentation, those who enjoy using the latest technologies and integrating them into their stations.



On the cover page of this Echo Ireland there is a photograph of the South Dublin Radio Club experimental ATV repeater overlooking the city. SDR members have used their skills to establish a ground station as part of the ARISS HamTV project. Elsewhere in the issue you can read activity reports from clubs from all around the country. The Editor has on this occasion appended the contributors' names. There is a significant number who graciously gave their time to write their contributions.

I would like to draw your attention to an appeal for funding for the Cavan repeater system which was damaged in a storm. This is an excellent opportunity for those who enjoy using repeaters to put something back.

To the Editors of Echo Ireland, EiNews and the Radio News I say "thank you" on our members' behalf. I also include in that the numerous backroom people who tirelessly work to provide production and quality control; input and of course those who step into the breach as backup when others are not available.

In previous writings I have talked about the importance of volunteers. That importance has not changed. We were delighted to introduce some new faces to the Committee this year. Already they are making their contribution. I hope they are willing to continue. As members you have the final say as to Committee membership and proposals are always welcome.

This year I attended the IARU Region1 General Conference in Varna. I was impressed by the band of dedicated, knowledgeable, skilled people that debated the future needs of our hobby. As members we owe a debt of gratitude to our IARU Liaison Seán EI7CD who works quietly all year on IARU matters. A report on the meeting is in this issue of our Journal.

I had the honour of being asked to close the West Tyrone

Amateur Radio Conference that was also attended by RSGB President John Gould G3WKL. For my theme I focussed on how important it is that radio amateurs should join their national society. The scope of national societies has moved from producing a journal or providing a QSL service to something very important – protecting our bands and privileges for future generations. The attacks come in many forms whether it is an attempt to reallocated frequency or the gradual insidious increase in background interference in this electronic age.

My message is simple. If you know someone who is not a member of their national society, then, for the sake of future generations of radio amateurs, persuade them to join.

For that I want to extend, on my own behalf and on behalf of every member, my sincere thanks to all who have given their time – without you we would not be the society we are today. As my Presidency draws to an end, I continue to admire the commitment and talent of our members and look forward to our ongoing work.

The Society is the membership. What can *we* do to improve it?

To all our members and to all radio amateurs worldwide,

*Nollaig shona is Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh go léir*



Séamus McCague EI8BP  
President IRTS

### Are You Going to Kilkenny?

**IRTS 83rd Dinner, AGM & Radio Rally**

**Hosted by the  
South Eastern Amateur Radio Group**

**Hotel Kilkenny, College Road,  
Kilkenny**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**25 / 26 April 2015**



## South Dublin Radio Club

### SDRNet

*John Breen EI7BV writes:*

This month the SDRNet celebrates its second anniversary. Over the last two years it has achieved its objective of creating a place on the 40m meter band for EI activity and a friendly ragchew.

In the last year there were 245 net participants throughout the year with 14 SDR members participating some of them over 26 times. 21 other EIs participated during the year along with 6 from GI and a small number from across the water in G, GW and GM.

The net is held every Sunday morning on 7.110 MHz +/- QRM and following the call-ins to the 40 meter IRTS news. Typically it starts around 11.30 /11.45 and can run for up to an hour or so, depending on the number of participants and the topics being discussed. The intended net frequency is regularly announced during the call-ins to the IRTS News. All EIs are welcome to call-in and as indicated above a number do. Some of them have done so when they wanted to check a new or reconfigured antenna and the net is there to facilitate.

Thanks to all who participated during the year. Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all and hope to hear you calling into the net in 2015.



*Celebrating two years of SDRNet*

*Joe EI6EG, Dermot EI6FZ, Tom EI7HT, Mike EI3DY, John EI7BV*

### ATV Activity by South Dublin

*Ronnie McGrane EI9ED writes:*

EI2SDR is sending pictures of Dublin Bay on 2390 MHz from Three Rock Mountain.

It is on test and orientated towards Dublin and Dundalk. Rx input on 1240 MHz will be available next with DTMF Control via 144.775.

The Echo Ireland cover photo shows the clear view from the site to the North over Dublin city.

## Repeater News

### Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

The EI7SMR and EI4SMR Repeaters are back on air. Both the UHF Repeater EI7SMR and the 4m Simplexer EI4SMR located on Musheramore Mountain, County Cork had been off air due structural damage at the site caused by the severe storm on 12th February 2014. But with the assistance of the members from the North Cork Radio Group both installations are now back up and running. The Duhallow UHF repeater EI7SMR operates on RU74, 430.925MHz, input is 438.525MHz (7.6MHz split) and requires a CTCSS tone of 103.5Hz. The 4m FM Simplexer EI4SMR operates on 70.375MHz FM mode. This Simplexer records up to 30 seconds of received audio and then retransmits the recorded audio on the same frequency. The Duhallow Repeater Group would like to thank the members of the North Cork Radio Group for all their assistance and contribution in getting both installations back on the air.

### Galway VHF Group

The Galway VHF Group have recently upgraded their APRS system to include a Weather Station and a new I-Gate to allow data to be fed direct to the website APRS.fi. Initially, information was not showing up on APRS.fi as expected. Settings on the I-Gate were reconfigured by remote access and the whole system sprang into life. A second APRS Digipeater will be located on a high spot near Abbeyknockmoy Co. Galway in the near future. This will considerably enhance the coverage allowing seamless handover to systems located in the Midlands and Southeast.

The 4m Echo/IRLP Simplex Gateway EI4GCG is located at Mervue, Galway City on 70.425MHz and can be accessed using a CTCSS tone of 77Hz and should be accessible from a 25 mile radius around Galway city.

The 70cms Repeater project has been completed and is now awaiting a convenient time to be located at Knockroe, Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway. The output frequency will be on 430.825 and input frequency on 438.425 - a shift of +7.6 MHz. The Repeater may be only accessed using a CTCSS tone of 77Hz. If all goes well, the majority of County Galway will be covered with overlap into neighbouring counties.

Check [www.galwayvhfgroup.blogspot.com](http://www.galwayvhfgroup.blogspot.com) for further information.



## Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

### Padraic Baynes EI9JA

MREN meets on the first Wednesday of each month 9.30pm local time in the Welcome Inn, Castlebar.

This year's AGM was held on 1st October.

Elected officers for the coming year are:

Chairman: Padraic Baynes EI9JA  
Secretary: Brendan Minish EI6IZ  
Treasurer: Adrian Healy EI2HAB  
PRO: John Walsh EI5GHB  
IRTS Rep: Steve Wright EI5DD  
Rally Organiser: Padraic EI9JA

The club plans to have a station on air for the 80m counties contest on January 1st and looks forward to making contact with you then. We also hope to activate either of the two callsigns EI7MRE or EI0M during planned outings next year.

The Radio rally was held on Sunday the 12th October in the usual location of the Welcome Inn Hotel, which this year saw a smaller than normal crowd attend the event even though the weather was beautiful for the occasion. There was a large supply of radio equipment for sale at the show and plenty of bargains to be had for small money!

Club members were happy with the change of date for the rally. However the change of date meant some people missed the rally due to the earlier date but those that attended found travelling easier due to the longer daylight hours.

Check out the clubs website for more information and latest pictures [www.ei7mre.org](http://www.ei7mre.org).



Blacksod August 2014



## Are you going to Kilkenny?

### Sean Byrne EI2HZB

#### 2015 AGM Organising Committee Member SEARG

On behalf of the 2015 AGM organising committee I would like to bring you up to date on what's going on behind the scenes. The organising committee have been working away in the background to make the 2015 AGM the best to date. As most of you are aware by now the event is being held in Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny over the weekend on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2015. Accommodation at the hotel is priced on Friday night, the 24th April - €50.00 per person sharing B&B (€80.00 single occupancy) and Saturday night, the 25th April - €60.00 per person sharing B&B (€90.00 single occupancy). Please quote the code IRTS/SEARG RALLY when booking. You can contact Hotel Kilkenny on 056 7762000 or at [www.hotelkilkenny.ie](http://www.hotelkilkenny.ie) There is also a list of B&B's available on the AGM page on the IRTS website.

As many of you are travelling long distances and will leave early lunch will be available in the bar from 12pm. This is an ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends. We intend to have a number of workshop/talks on the Saturday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm. We have been in contact with a few speakers on different aspects of the hobby and once we have confirmed the speakers we will be releasing a press release with details. The annual dinner will take place on the Saturday evening at 7pm. Tickets for the dinner which are priced at €35 are now available from John Ronan EI7IG. Admission to the dinner is strictly by ticket only.

The radio rally will take place on the Sunday morning from 11am to 2pm. We have been in talks with all the major traders and some new ones as well. The response has been positive and like the speakers once we have confirmation of what traders are attending there will be a press release with all the details. There will also be a bring and buy area for anyone who might have some equipment to sell. Please note there will be limited space for the bring and buy which must be pre booked. More details will be announced closer to the event. If there are any traders who would like to take part in the event that we have not got in contact with please feel free to get in touch with myself or any of the organising committee. The AGM itself will take place at 2pm on the Sunday.

So that's the position at the moment we have a great team working away to make sure that the weekend is a great success. As I have said we will keep people up to date as events unfold. If there is anything anyone would like to know please feel free to get in contact with myself or any of the organising committee. **We look forward to meeting you all on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.**



## Avondhu Radio Club

**Lisa Cummins EI9GSB**



EI1E/P has retained the Paddy Daly trophy for 2014, winning the SSB FD competition. The team consisted of Denis EI4KF, Gerard EI5KF, and Hans EI9GRB. The team

operated from IO52ub, Rathcormac GAA grounds with a multiband yagi and 80m inverted V. Our correspondent writes "We were visited by Dave Moore EI4BZ....we hid the 2kW PA before his arrival Hi Hi! Our new hut was comfortable and a much welcome improvement on a tent. Thanks to Hans for the canteen and sleeping accommodation. We improved our score on last year, but were disappointed with the conditions on 10m and 80m."



*Denis O'Flaherty EI4KH receives the Paddy Daly microphone on behalf of Avondhu Radio Club EI1E/P, from IRTS Committee member Lisa Cummins EI9GSB for SSB FD 2013.*



*Gerard, Denis & Hans outside the camper.*



*Dennis EI4KF operating, Hans EI9GRB in the background*

## Shannon Basin AGM 2015

**Brian Canning EI8IU**

The Shannon Basin Radio Club will be holding its AGM in Hannons Hotel, Roscommon on 16th January 2015 at 20:30. All members requested to attend.

Anybody interested in becoming a member will be very welcome. For further information please see [shannonbasinradioclub.com](http://shannonbasinradioclub.com) or contact Brian EI8IU 086 105 7325.





## Shannon Basin Radio Club SSB FD 2014

### Brian Canning EI8IU

Over the weekend of 6th and 7th September 2014 Shannon Basin Radio Club operating as EI3Z/P once again went to the grounds of Garbally College in Ballinasloe (Thanks to EI4CF and the Principal of Garbally College) to take part in the SSB Field Day.

The club caravan was parked and the Zepp antenna hung off two suitably high trees. The club used an IC7600 with 100 watts. Although a PSU gave some trouble the weekend passed without any problems. Band conditions were fair with QSOs taking place on all five bands.



*Brain EI8IU operating EI3X/P*



*L to R: EI6IB, EI3HA, EI6GGB, EI8IU, Tom (SWL), EI5GUB, EI9HX, EI4CF*

### Attention Club Secretaries

Is your club listing on the IRTS website up to date? Check [www.irts.ie/clubs](http://www.irts.ie/clubs) and email [pagemaster@irts.ie](mailto:pagemaster@irts.ie) with any changes you want to make.

It is important that prospective members and visitors can obtain contact and meeting information.

## DXCC Honor Roll EI7JZ/OE6CLD

### Dave Moore EI4BZ

Congratulations to Claus EI7JZ/OE6CLD who has been waiting 10 years for his final confirmation to make Number 1 DXCC Honor Roll with his Austrian call OE6CLD.

The QSO was with VK0MM operating from Macquarie Island and the picture shows DXCC card checker Dave EI9FBB checking the card for submission to the ARRL DXCC desk.

Claus is now resident in Cork and is well on the way to doing it all again with the EI Callsign.



### 5MHz Newsletter

Paul Gaskell G3MWO writes to tell us that the latest edition of The 5 MHz Newsletter of which he is editor is now available for free download from <http://tinyurl.com/jvjrt6>

The Autumn 2014 edition (No 12), features a number of stories, including Dominica on 5 MHz, several items on WRC15, South African beacon changes and NVIS observations, noise on 5 MHz and new webSDRs covering the band.

### Cavan Repeater U/S

#### Ronnie McGrane EI9ED

The Cavan 2m, 4m and ATV repeaters EI2LLX are out of service due to a catastrophic failure of the ropes supporting the masts in high gusts of wind on 14th November. GPRS and the first UHF repeater are still operational. Amateur support is needed to replace this service which has existed for 20 years and is a link to the southern repeater systems and the first cross band repeater.

If you would like to support repeaters in Cavan contact Ronnie EI9ED QTHR or see [iatc.ie](http://iatc.ie) for bank details.



**Contest Results: IRTS CW Field Day 2014***Thos Caffery EI2JD*

	Call Sign	QSOs	Mults	Points
<b>Open Section</b>				
** 1	<b>EI1E/P, Avondhu Radio Club</b> (Op's = EI4KH, EI5KF)	622		220330
<b>Restricted Section</b>				
** 1	<b>EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin</b> (Op's = EI8IU, EI7GY, EI6GGB, EI9HX, EI4CF)	886	140	383880
** = Award Winner				

**Contest Results: IRTS SSB Field Day 2014***Thos Caffrey EI2JD*

	Call Signs	QSOs	Mults	Points
<b>Open Section</b>				
** 1	<b>EI1E/P, Avondhu Radio Club</b> Op's: EI4KH, EI5KF, EI9GRB	738		252948
<b>Restricted Section</b>				
** 1	<b>EI3Z/P, Shannon Basin RC</b> Op's: EI2II, EI4CF, EI6IB, EI8IU, EI9HX, EI6GGB, EI5GUB	679	107	296711
2	EI7T/P, Tipperary ARG	567	102	231744
3	EI2KA/P, Tim McKnight	160	35	23555
4	EI1K/P, Kerry ARG Op's: EI7CQB, EI9ESB, EI9FVB	159	34	19584
** = Award Winner				

**Contest Results: SP DX Contest 2014**IRELAND - 8 Logs *Thos Caffrey EI2JD***SO 15m CW**

Place	Call	QSOs	Points	Mult	Score
1	EI4JZ	53	159	15	2385

**SO 20m Phone**

Place	Call	QSOs	Points	Mult	Score
1	EI30T	123	369	15	5535
2	EI4JT	75	225	15	3375

**SO AB CW LP**

Place	Call	QSOs	Points	Mult	Score
1	EI3KI	280	840	67	56280
2	EI8JX	196	588	54	31752

**SO AB Phone LP**

Place	Call	QSOs	Points	Mult	Score
1	EI3HDB	495	1482	61	90402

**MO AB Mixed**

Place	Call	QSOs	Points	Mult	Score
1	*EI0PL	1145	3435	93	319455
2	EI1NC	500	1500	57	85500

\* EI0PL (EI3KG EI5JQ EI7KD EI9KC)

**All time new EU record****IRTS 80m Counties Contest****Thursday 1st January 2015****80 metres:** From 14:00 to 17:00 UTC**CW** 3510-3560kHz**SSB** 3600-3650 & 3700-775kHz

Exchange report, serial number (starting 001 for the first contact) and county code, e.g. 59 001 WIC

Work everyone, mults are EI/GI counties

Entries should be sent to [contestmanager@irts.ie](mailto:contestmanager@irts.ie) by 15th January 2015.Full rules at [irts.ie/cgi/showrules.cgi?hfc](http://irts.ie/cgi/showrules.cgi?hfc)



# CQWW from EI - a Personal Perspective

Olivier Vandebalck ON4EI/EI8GQB

In October, I celebrated my 20th 'radio' visit to Ireland to take part in the CQ WW SSB contest using EI8GQB/EI1A.

I still remember my first radio competition with EI/ON4EI in 2008, like it was yesterday. All I had were some simple wire antennas and one set of warm clothes as I operated from my in-laws' shed. I was recently married to an Irish woman and even more recent father of 2 baby twin girls.



Six years later, I had moved out of the shed and into a second-hand caravan which I parked on top of a hill. The caravan functions on green energy, with a wind generator and solar panels.

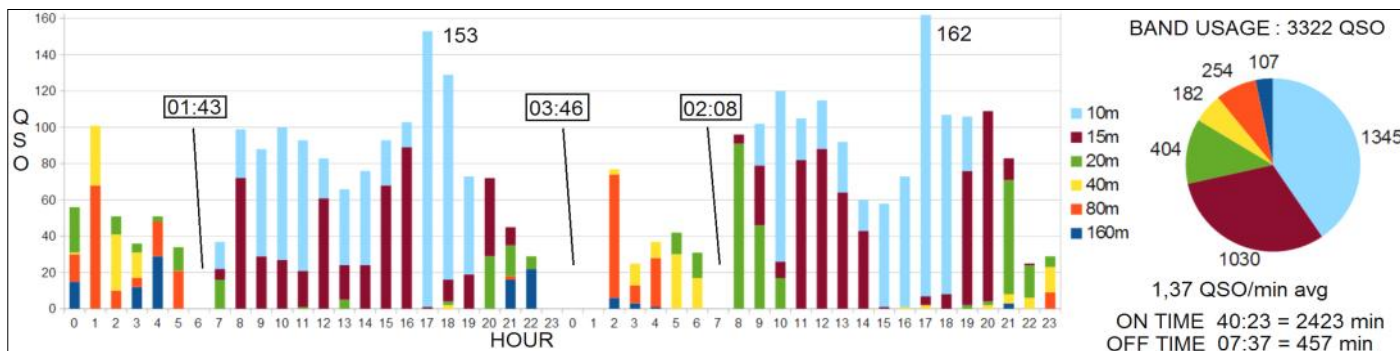
It is difficult to summarize in 1 or 2 pages where the time has gone these past 6 years. My most faithful witness is probably my QRZ.COM page ([www.qrz.com/db/ei8gqb](http://www.qrz.com/db/ei8gqb)) which tells the story of my experiences over the years. The next closest witness is my wife, who has driven me to the Brussels airport many times or who joins me on a holiday to Ireland, but without ever really seeing me. The landowner who welcomes me to his farm and pulls my caravan up the hill during the worst winter mud imaginable, has shown me great kindness. Peter, a local, was also on hand to help me to raise my 6 antennas park and set up shop, ready to go.



For the CQ WW SSB contest this year, I used up almost all my energy erecting all the antennas myself in the strong







October winds as Peter was busy. Fortunately, during the contest the wind settled slightly and I could operate the high band antennas for as long as I could stay awake. This is the first time in 2 years that my antennas did not break and that I could continue until I dropped!

I still recall when my 2 lightweight Spiderbeam antennas broke, 10 hours after the contest started last year during the St Jude storm. Peter was called in to help with repairs! And in 2012, when the high band antennas broke just 4 hours before the competition started.

This year it was my best CQ WW SSB contest experience in low power all band category, claiming 3.1 million points with 3322 QSOs, 95 Zones and 364 countries.

I transmitted for 40 hours and 30 minutes during the 48-hour duration. I knew that it was the last opportunity to enjoy good propagation conditions before the sun activity began to decrease. The 10-meter band allowed me to make more than one third of my contacts with North America – counting 3 points per QSO as other continent stations. The Spiderbeam, which is a 4-element full size antenna on 10 meters, allowed me to contact mobile and QRP stations with real S9 signals. I performed very good RUN rates with 2 major peaks up to 153 and 162 QSO/hour. I also beat my rate record with 6QSO/min during one minute and 4 QSO/min during 10 minutes.

The results of my 2014 CQ WW SSB are not yet official, but looking at the claimed results recently published, I hope to score first Europe and fourth world in the SOAB LP category. I am very happy with this result as my station is a single operator field day station, which is an additional challenge in comparison to fixed stations with which I am competing.

From the same location on the hilltop in the Clonmel area earlier this year, I also scored first Europe when I participated in 3 other major HF contests: the CQ WPX SSB, the IARU HF World championship and the IOTA contest. See you again in March 2015 for the CQ WPX SSB in order to score Europe champion for third consecutive year.



## Radio News Bulletins and Readers

### Sunday

Dublin	1100	7.123	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Ger EI4GXB, Paul EI2CA
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Clare	1200	3.650	SSB	Ger EI4GXB, Sean EI7CD
Mayo	2000		FM	145.600, 433.450, 70.375, 50.450 - Padraic EI9JA, John EI7FAB, Mike EI2EO, John EI3JM, Dominic EI9JS
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, Eddie EI3FFB

### Monday

Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Ger EI4GXB, Liam EI7DSB
				Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Thos EI2JD, Anthony EI2KC, Jim EI2HJB

### Tuesday

Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	David EI6GVB
North Cork	2000	430.925	FM	Lisa EI9GSB

## An Introduction to Worked All Ireland

### Declan Lennon EI9HQ

The Worked All Ireland Award programme (WAI) was established to encourage radio amateurs to work 10 x 10 km grid squares in the Republic of Ireland (EI) and Northern Ireland (GI). It encompasses a combination of grid squares, counties and islands from EI/GI. There are also awards for book numbers and grid square activation.

There are over 1400 grid squares to chase, with awards available for working as few as 175 grid squares, 15 counties and 1 island rising to the Ultimate Award for which you need 1400 grid squares, together with 32 counties and 25 islands. Is it possible to achieve the Ultimate Award, you may ask. Well, both EI6HW and Tom EI9CJ have done so and Declan EI9HQ has activated over 1300 grid squares.

A full introduction to WAI Rules and Awards may be found at [irts.ie/cgi/wai/cgi](http://irts.ie/cgi/wai/cgi). This link can be found also at the website of EI4GZB while EI9HQ has a page for WAI Rules, Net Frequencies and Net Operations at [www.ei9hq.com](http://www.ei9hq.com).

There is a WAI Yahoo Group where enthusiasts advertise that they are out mobile or just active on the bands for a short time. To access this service, go to Yahoo Groups and look for Worked All Ireland. Call into the net or, better still, set up your own Net on 80m (3.680MHz), 40M (7.170MHz) or 2m (144.350MHz). Also, keep a look-out for our overseas members on 20m (around 14.268MHz)

A new initiative for 2015 is the new WAI Counties Award. Details of this award are available in this issue of Echo Ireland, see next column.

Do you know what your WAI grid square is? There are a couple of web sites that will help you find out. Try [www.gridreference.ie/](http://www.gridreference.ie/) This link can be found at [www.ei4gzb.com](http://www.ei4gzb.com). If you have an up-to-date mobile phone you should have no difficulty in acquiring the appropriate information.

To keep track of your WAI records you should consider buying a WAI book. This is available from Dave Moore, Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork at a price of 10 Euro. There are also two logging programs that will help you keep track of your awards. The best of these is Log4OM which you can find at [www.pisto.it/wordpress/log4om-en/](http://www.pisto.it/wordpress/log4om-en/) So get stuck in and watch your score increasing!!

## Phoenix Radio Club Annual Rally

Coolmine Community School

Sunday 15th February 2015

## Worked all Ireland Counties Award for 2015

### Declan Lennon EI9HQ

IRTS is introducing the Worked All-Ireland Counties Awards. The awards will run next year from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2015. There will be 3 awards in total. Awards will be open for radio amateurs and SWLs. There are Bronze, Silver and Gold awards available. All bands and mode endorsements will qualify but no repeater or crossband QSOs will be accepted.

To qualify for the award, a list of QSOs with information on the following is required:

- Date
- Time
- Station Worked
- County
- Band
- WAI square
- email address and
- Award type claimed

All awards will be sent by email and in jpeg file so the award can be printed off by award winner.

## Awards Rules

### Bronze

20 counties and 20 WAI squares must be worked or heard. 18 of these counties must be from EI and 2 from GI. The station's WAI square you worked must be included.

### Silver

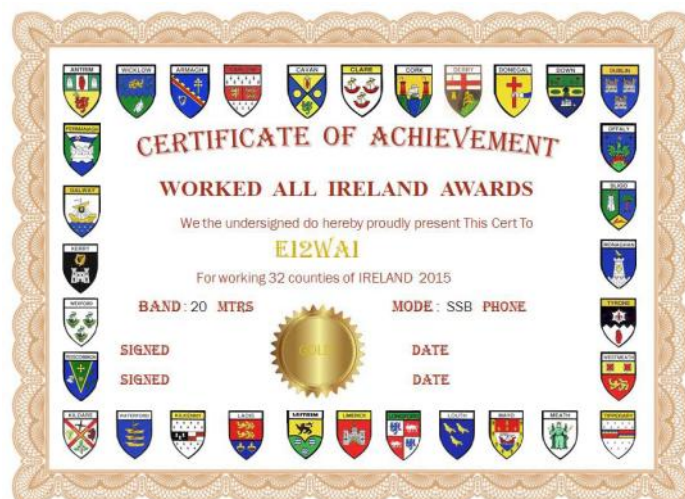
26 counties and 26 WAI squares must be worked or heard 22 of these counties must be from EI and 4 from GI. The station's WAI square you worked must be included.

### Gold

All 32 counties must be worked or heard and 32 WAI squares must be worked or heard. The station's WAI square you worked must be included.

All entries and queries can be sent to: [awards@irts.ie](mailto:awards@irts.ie)

Best of luck to all participants!





## Good News on 70 MHz

### Seán Nolan EI7CD IRTS/IARU Liaison

Some time back Dave EI3IO launched an initiative to try to secure a line in the European Common frequency Allocation table (ECA) that would provide for the granting of spectrum in the segment 69.9 to 70.5 MHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis and to amend Footnote EU9 to the table to state that CEPT administrations may allocate all or parts of that band to the Amateur service. The documentation which Dave drafted, which included briefing for National Societies, was adopted by IARU Region 1 and support was obtained from Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Iceland and Ireland.

The documentation explained that about thirty CEPT administrations had already allowed national amateur use of the band but that some remaining CEPT countries required a clear regulatory decision before they were able to open all, or parts of this band to secondary two-way amateur usage.

Dave EI3IO, representing IARU Region 1, presented the proposal at the recent meeting in France of CEPT's European Communications Committee Frequency Management Working Group. The proposal received the support of more than ten CEPT administrations and was adopted. This excellent outcome does not necessarily mean that frequencies between 69.9 and 70.5 MHz will be immediately available in all CEPT countries but it does, however, provide a clear basis for IARU member societies to seek a 4 metre allocation from their national licensing authority.

The ECA is approved, revised and published by the ECC once per year. It is expected that the revision incorporating the changes regarding 70 MHz will be published in the summer of 2015. This is another excellent example of what can be achieved by amateurs working together within the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU).

## West Tyrone Amateur Radio Conference October 2014



*Ger McNamara EI4GXB IRTS Secretary, Philip Hosey M10MSO RSGB Regional Manager, John Gould G3WKL RSGB President, Séamus McCague EI8BP IRTS President, Dave Wilson M0OBW RCF*

## IRTS 70 MHz (4m) Awards

### Dave Court EI3IO

To celebrate the adoption of the band 69.9 – 70.5 MHz as a secondary amateur allocation in the European Common (frequency) Allocation Table and Ireland's significant involvement in the process, IRTS as the national IARU member society in Ireland is pleased to launch two new 4m awards.

The purpose of the awards is to recognise and promote DX achievements by amateur radio operators interested in the range 69 – 74 MHz. In-band and Cross-band awards are available. Log extracts are required and there is currently no charge for the awards. The awards will be available from 1 January 2015.

### 70 MHz Maidenhead Locator Award (MLA) Award Programme

For the **70 MHz MLA in-band Half Century award**, communicating with stations in 50 locators is required, 75 for a cross-band award.

For the **70 MHz MLA in-band Century award**, communicating with stations in 100 locators is required, 125 for a cross-band award.

For the **70 MHz MLA in-band Double Century award**, communicating with stations in 200 locators are required, 250 for a cross-band award. A Double Century Award can also be endorsed for additional locators worked in steps of 50 e.g. 250, 300, 350 etc.

A PDF document providing full details of the award and how to apply can be downloaded from the IRTS web-site, [see www.irts.ie/70MHz](http://www.irts.ie/70MHz)

### 70 MHz Continents, Countries and Islands (CCI) Award Programme

For this award points are earned for working WAC continents, DXCC countries and IOTA island groups. A continent is valid for 10 points (once only), an IOTA island reference which is not listed as a DXCC entity is valid for 2 points and a DXCC entity is valid for 1 point.

For the **70 MHz CCI in-band Basic award** 50 points are required, 65 for a cross-band award.

For the **70 MHz CCI in-band Century award** 100 points are required, 115 for a cross-band award.

For the **70 MHz CCI in-band Century Plus award** 130 points are required, 145 for a cross-band award. A 70 MHz CCI century plus award can also be endorsed for additional entities worked in steps of 20 e.g. +20, +40, +60 etc.

A PDF document providing full details of the award and how to apply can be downloaded from the IRTS web-site, [see www.irts.ie/70MHz](http://www.irts.ie/70MHz)

## IOTA Contest Results

Results for the Islands On The Air contest held last July have now been published. Over 2,200 logs were submitted for this very popular contest, including 22 logs from Irish stations.

Local stations were well up in the rankings: these included:

Papa Lima DX-Group (EJ1Y) - on Great Blasket Island - who achieved 2nd place in the Island DXpedition, Multi-Operator, High Power section;

Gerard Scannell EI5KF, who was 1st in the Island DXpedition, Single-operator Unassisted, CW 24hr, High Power section;

East Cork Amateur Radio Group (EI7M) who were 2nd in the Island, Multi-Operator, High Power section;

Mark EI6JK, with 3rd place in the Island, Single-operator Assisted, SSB 24hr, High Power section - at the same time setting a new Irish record in this category.

The IRTS web site at [irts.ie/iota](http://irts.ie/iota) has the results for all the Irish stations, along with a link to the full results page

*Joe Ryan EI7GY*

## Germany nominated to host WRTC 2018

On Sunday, October 5, 2014 the World Radio Team Championship (WRTC) Sanctioning Committee selected Germany as the host nation for the WRTC 2018. This nomination followed an initiative of DARC, BCC and RRDXA, initiated during the Ham Radio fair Friedrichshafen at the end of June 2014. A small team, headed by Christian Janssen, DL1MGB, was set up in order to explore the option to hold this event in Germany.

Since 1990, WRTC has been held regularly in different locations. For one week, it brings together some 60 teams from all over the world, who then compete in the IARU HF Team Championship under field day conditions. The last WRTC was held in New England/USA. Only a few weeks ago, it ended with a bronze medal for Germany.

During the next weeks, the team will launch an official organisation to finance and conduct WRTC2018 in Germany. The team is recruiting volunteers, in particular in the fields public relations, location management, accommodation and social events.

Three geographical regions within Germany are currently under evaluation and one of them will be selected as the venue for WRTC 2018: the area near Muenster/Westfalen, the area Maerkisches Oderland east of Berlin and the area around Jessen/Wittenberg.

A web site has been set up to provide further details: **[www.wrtc2018.de](http://www.wrtc2018.de)**. Additionally, a WRTC2018 mailing list for potential participants was established. If you have any additional questions or wish to join the project team, please send a short email to **[contact@wrtc2018.de](mailto:contact@wrtc2018.de)**.

## UKEICC 80m Contest Results



The first 80m SSB contest organised by the UK & Ireland Contest Club took place on 22 October, with the results announced only eighteen minutes after the one-hour deadline for uploading logs.

There was a record number of entries from Ireland, thirteen from EI and two from GI. The outright winner of the low-power section was Ger EI4GXB, with Oliver EI8GQP close behind in third place.

In the high-power section, Pat EI9HX and Mark EI6JK were placed third and fourth.

In the October CW event, there were four EI entrants, and two of them took the top two places for UK and Ireland stations in the high-power unconnected category.

These 80m contests are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and the next one, with a break for Christmas, is on 28th January. As it will be SSB, we could have another record numbers of EI entrants. As usual in these contests, entrants with error-free logs get a bonus of 20% of their score, to be applied in the following month's 80m contest.

Full details and results are at **[ukeicc.com](http://ukeicc.com)**

*Paul O'Kane EI5DI*

## Wanted — Contest Operators for EI9E

If you have some experience of contesting, or think you might like to get experience, the EI9E contest group is looking for likely candidates.

EI9E is located in Co, Wexford, and has some of the best equipment and antennas in EI — including 4-squares for both 80m and 40m, together with multi-element mono and tri-bander yagis for the other bands, and ample power to keep them all warm.

You probably already know that CW operators are in short supply, though no one will be turned away. Food and accommodation are provided on-site, and your only responsibility is to get yourself to the station and operate. If you're interested, or think you might be, email Paul EI5DI at [pokane@ei5di.com](mailto:pokane@ei5di.com) and we'll take it from there.

If you're new to contesting, and not already using contest logging software, it's worth trying SD by EI5DI, free from [ei5di.com](http://ei5di.com). SD runs on any Windows PC, from XP to 8.1, and supports all IRTS, RSGB and UKEICC HF contests, and hundreds of others worldwide. SD tracks your points, multipliers and dupes, and generates Cabrillo-format logs accepted by all contest sponsors. Why not try it for the IRTS 80m Counties Contest on 1st January - select the "IRTS 80m Cty, EI/GI" option at startup.



# EI DXCC Listings (as at November 17th 2014)

Thos Caffrey EI2JD

## Mixed

365	EI8H	264	EI9HX
353	EI7CC	260	EI4CF
351	EI6S	250	EI9GLB
348	EI6FR	242	EI7JZ
346	EI8EM	241	EI6JK
344	EI7BA	241	EI2GLB
340	EI2GS	<b>237 EI8IU (+12)</b>	
326	EI3IO	225	EI9JF
324	EI9FBB	213	EI7GL
<b>320 EI9O (+3)</b>		<b>212 EI4HH (+10)</b>	
<b>317 EI5GM (+3)</b>		208	EI4GJB
310	EI4II	206	EI4BZ
306	EI2HY	200	EI6IL
301	EI2GLB	200	EI8FH
<b>300 EI2CR (+7)</b>		191	EI9E
300	EI8FH	191	EI3HA
<b>296 EI2JD (+1)</b>		188	EI2CH
295	EI4CF	186	EI7II
290	EI6IZ	<b>178 EI6AL (+43)</b>	
287	EI9JF	<b>177 EI5IF (+22)</b>	
<b>281 EI9FVB (+12)</b>		177	EI9FE
<b>277 EI8IU (+8)</b>		<b>167 EI9HQ (+7)</b>	
269	EI8GS	160	EI2II
264	EI4BZ	160	EI6HB
262	EI2GX	131	EI5FQB
<b>259 EI6AL (+43)</b>		131	EI5GSB
251	EI7JZ	120	EI3CTB
250	EI9GLB	<b>116 EI6CPB (+4)</b>	
243	EI6JK	105	EI1CS
241	EI1DG	103	EI3HDB
<b>235 EI4HH (+7)</b>		103	EI6GGB
233	EI7GY	102	EI4DJB
230	EI4GXB	101	EI3IP
<b>214 EI5IF (+18)</b>		<b>101 EI6FM (New)</b>	
210	EI6IL	101	EI4GNB
209	EI7JN	100	EI3GAB
198	EI9E		
193	EI3HA	337	EI7BA
191	EI6HB	329	EI7CC
188	EI4IR	325	EI6FR
<b>173 EI9HQ (+4)</b>		306	EI9FBB
150	EI3CTB	292	EI8FH
135	EI9CF	283	EI6IZ
131	EI5FQB	280	EI4CF
131	EI5GSB	<b>279 EI2JD (+1)</b>	
129	EI5GUB	253	EI9JF
128	EI8HA	<b>243 EI8IU (+10)</b>	
127	EI9CJ	243	EI2GLB
124	EI7IG	242	EI4BZ
<b>116 EI6CPB (+4)</b>		<b>242 EI6AL (+40)</b>	
115	EI5JQ	226	EI7GY
108	EI5EV	<b>219 EI5GM (+4)</b>	
104	EI9GWB	204	EI1DG
103	EI3HDB	<b>168 EI4HH (+10)</b>	
101	EI7JQ	158	EI8JX
<b>101 EI6FM (New)</b>		<b>148 EI9FVB (New)</b>	
101	EI8JB	131	EI7JZ
100	EI3GAB	127	EI9CF
100	EI4HQ	<b>113 EI2KK (New)</b>	
100	EI9KF	109	EI2IH
		109	EI4HM
		109	EI7IG
		109	EI9E
		104	EI6HB
		<b>100 EI3KE (New)</b>	
		100	EI3KG

## Phone

351	EI7CC
348	EI6S
346	EI8EM
342	EI7BA
338	EI2GS
336	EI6FR
331	EI8AR
310	EI9FBB
309	EI3GV
300	EI8AU
296	EI4GK
<b>280 EI2JD (+2)</b>	
<b>278 EI9FVB (+9)</b>	
269	EI8GS

## RTTY/Digital

290	EI7BA
211	EI1DG
200	EI6FR
163	EI2GLB
<b>159 EI8IU (+11)</b>	
148	EI8FH
121	EI6HB
110	EI3CTB
<b>108 EI5IF (+4)</b>	

## 160m

242	EI7BA
212	EI3IO
140	EI6IZ
135	EI9FBB
<b>122 EI2JD (+1)</b>	

## 80m

304	EI6S
291	EI7BA
239	EI9FBB
<b>166 EI2JD (+2)</b>	
150	EI6FR
142	EI3IO
134	EI6IZ
119	EI4BZ
103	EI8GS
102	EI7GY
101	EI9E
<b>100 EI9FVB (New)</b>	

## 40m

315	EI7BA
250	EI9FBB
221	EI6FR
203	EI4CF
<b>202 EI2JD (+2)</b>	
199	EI6IZ
185	EI3IO
177	EI9JF
154	EI6JK
151	EI2GLB
139	EI4BZ
129	EI8GS
127	EI9E
124	EI7JZ
119	EI7GY
117	EI7GL
<b>113 EI9FVB (+8)</b>	
100	EI1DG

## 30m

325	EI7BA
248	EI9FBB
223	EI3IO
213	EI6FR
209	EI6IZ
167	EI9JF
151	EI7GY
<b>124 EI2JD (+1)</b>	
120	EI4BZ
<b>112 EI8IU (+1)</b>	
101	EI2GLB

## 20m

338	EI7BA
328	EI6FR
315	EI9FBB
<b>257 EI2JD (+1)</b>	
251	EI3IO
243	EI4CF
<b>234 EI9FVB (+12)</b>	
216	EI6IZ
217	EI9JF
211	EI8GS
198	EI2GLB
195	EI4BZ
<b>193 EI8IU (+7)</b>	
184	EI1DG
179	EI7JZ
171	EI7JN
164	EI9E
161	EI6JK
154	EI7GY
149	EI9GLB
145	EI6HB

144	EI4GJB
<b>135 EI4HH (+26)</b>	
<b>133 EI5IF (+11)</b>	
130	EI3GV
<b>126 EI3HA (+5)</b>	
<b>124 EI6AL (+18)</b>	
118	EI9HQ
112	EI4GK
112	EI8IQ
107	EI3CTB
105	EI2II
103	EI5FQB
102	EI5GSB

## 17m

333	EI7BA
293	EI9FBB
265	EI6FR
<b>191 EI2JD (+1)</b>	
190	EI6IZ
<b>190 EI8IU (+11)</b>	
<b>186 EI9FVB (+26)</b>	
163	EI2GLB
156	EI7GY
<b>155 EI6AL (+20)</b>	
146	EI9JF
135	EI4CF
129	EI3IO
127	EI4GJB
121	EI1DG
116	EI7JZ
108	EI3GV
108	EI4BZ
100	EI9GLB

## 15m

329	EI7BA
<b>294 EI6FR</b>	
288	EI9FBB
243	EI4CF
<b>231 EI2JD (+1)</b>	
<b>218 EI9FVB (+20)</b>	
204	EI3IO
200	EI2GLB
<b>196 EI8IU (+11)</b>	
194	EI4BZ
194	EI6IZ
193	EI6JK
181	EI8GS
173	EI9E
162	EI1DG
<b>157 EI6AL (+28)</b>	
153	EI7JZ
<b>148 EI4HH (+28)</b>	
144	EI7GY
136	EI6HB
126	EI9GLB
120	EI4GJB
113	EI3GV
109	EI7JN
<b>107 EI5IF (New)</b>	
105	EI9JF
104	EI4GK
<b>101 EI9HQ (New)</b>	

## 12m

318	EI7BA
259	EI9FBB
<b>175 EI9FVB (+27)</b>	
<b>167 EI8IU (+17)</b>	
<b>147 EI2JD (+2)</b>	
<b>143 EI6AL (+24)</b>	
141	EI6FR
140	EI6JK
114	EI2GLB
114	EI7GY
109	EI6IZ

106	EI3IO
103	EI1DG
101	EI7JZ
100	EI4GJB
<b>10m</b>	
301	EI7BA
258	EI9FBB
257	EI3IO
201	EI6FR
<b>197 EI2JD (+1)</b>	
191	EI2GLB
184	EI4CF
182	EI4BZ
<b>178 EI9FVB (+30)</b>	
173	EI6JK
171	EI8GS
<b>166 EI4HH (+11)</b>	
155	EI9E
<b>153 EI6AL (+23)</b>	
<b>152 EI8IU (+10)</b>	
144	EI1DG
144	EI7GL
137	EI6IZ
133	EI4GK
129	EI7JZ
127	EI7GY
112	EI4GJB
111	EI9CJ
110	EI9GLB
105	EI6HB
104	EI3GV
101	EI2II

## 6m

160	EI3IO
135	EI9FBB
111	EI7GL
110	EI7BA
107	EI2JD
101	EI2GLB
101	EI3EBB

## 2m

<b>113</b>	EI4DQ
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## DXCC Honor Roll

### Mixed

340	EI6FR/348
339	EI7BA/344
338	EI7CC/353
338	EI8EM/346
337	EI8H/365
332	EI6S/351
332	EI2GS/340

### Phone

338	EI8EM/346
337	EI7BA/342
336	EI7CC/351
331	EI6S/348

### CW

333	EI7BA/337
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## DXCC Challenge

2,868	EI7BA
2,400	EI9FBB
1,892	EI6FR
1,850	EI3IO
<b>1,729 EI2JD (+12)</b>	
1,654	EI7CC
1,584	EI6IZ
1,348	EI4CF
1,318	EI2GLB
<b>1,354 EI9FVB (+205)</b>	
1,139	EI4BZ
<b>1,139 EI8IU (+136)</b>	
1,090	EI6JK
1,120	EI7GY
1,018	EI9JF
1,013	EI1DG

# EI DXCC Listings

Contd.

## DXCC Single Band Status (19/01/14)

		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2
10	EI9FBB	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI3IO	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI2JD	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
10	EI7BA	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
9	EI6IZ	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
8	EI6FR	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
8	EI2GLB	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	-
8	EI7GY	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
7	EI4BZ	-	80	40	30	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
7	EI9FVB	-	80	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
6	EI8IU	-	-	-	30	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
6	EI1DG	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI4GJB	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI6AL	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	12	10	-	-
5	EI7JZ	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI8GS	-	80	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI9JF	-	-	40	30	20	17	15	-	-	-	-
5	EI9E	-	80	40	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI4CF	-	-	40	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
5	EI6JK	-	-	40	-	20	-	15	12	10	-	-
4	EI3GV	-	-	-	-	20	17	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI4GK	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI4HH	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI6HB	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
3	EI7GL	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	-
3	EI9GLB	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	10	-	-
2	EI2II	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	10	-	-
2	EI7JN	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
2	EI5IF	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
2	EI9HQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	15	-	-	-	-
1	EI3EBB	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
1	EI3HA	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI4DQ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1	EI5FQB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI5GSB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI6S	-	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI8IQ	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	EI9CJ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
1	EI3CTB	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
		160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2

# EI's on EQSL (as at November 10th 2014)

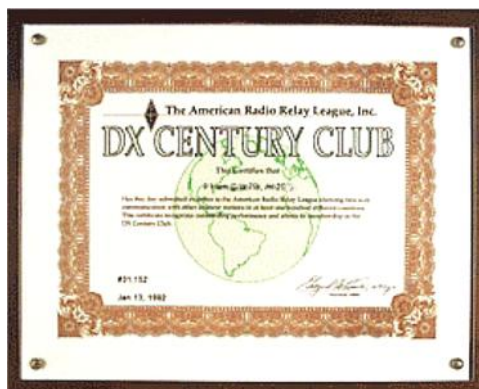
Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD - thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

## DXCC Confirmed

252	EI7BA
227	EI9O
221	EI7CC (+2)
216	EI9JU
215	EI4CF
211	EI9FBB
206	EI0CZ (+1)
197	EI3IO
197	EI2KC (+1)
192	EI2JD
192	EI9KC
191	EI4GJB (+3)
191	EI6IL (+6)
191	EI6JK (+4)
188	EI7JN
186	EI2GLB (+1)
184	EI3KG (+2)
182	EI8IU (+3)
179	EI1DG (+1)
179	EI3GYB (+1)
178	EI8FH (+2)
177	EI4GXB
175	EI8GS (+2)
174	EI9FVB (+4)
167	EI7JZ (+2)
165	EI6AL (+2)
164	EI8IQ (+1)
159	EI3GRB (New)
156	EI9E (+4)
153	EI4HH
153	EI5GM (+1)
150	EI4II
149	EI0W (+1)
148	EI9HX
147	EI6IZ
146	EI5JQ
145	EI5IF
144	EI9GLB (+3)
143	EI6HB
141	EI8BLB (+4)
140	EI6GHB (+2)
136	EI7JK
134	EI3KI (+3)
134	EI4GNB (+2)
133	EI2II (+3)
133	EI3KE
128	EI3HA
128	EI4BZ
128	EI5HV (+3)
128	EI9HQ
126	EI5GSB (+4)
125	EI8JB
120	EI3JB (+9)
120	EI3GAB (+2)
119	EI7GSB (+3)
118	EI5EV (+4)
113	EI4KE
113	EI7IX
113	EI3HDB (+3)
112	EI4HQ
112	EI8HL (+4)
111	EI7M
106	EI9KB
106	EI5GUB
105	EI5GJB
103	EI9GSB (+1)
102	EI3GD
101	EI8JR (+2)
101	EI9ES
98	EI0PL
98	EI6GF (+1)
96	EI9CF (+25)
96	EI9GTB(+1)
95	EI6AK (+1)

91	EI6CPB (+1)
90	EI4GAB (+2)
88	EI3IS
87	EI7GUB (+2)
85	EI7IQ
85	EI7BFB (+1)
84	EI2KK
84	EI4IS
84	EI9GGB
84	EI9GWB (+1)
83	EI8JK
83	EI2HW (+1)
83	EI9FV
80	EI9EW
79	EI6ARB (+6)
79	EI6GGB
79	EI9CBB (+3)
78	EI3HGB (+2)
76	EI4IR (+1)
76	EI8DL
75	EI6IF (+1)
75	EI9JM
74	EI5IX
73	EI8GP
72	EI9CN
70	EI4HLB
68	EI8JB
67	EI1571
67	EI9KF (+5)
66	EI7BMB
65	EI5DD (+2)
65	EI5HE
65	EI8DD
65	EI3HBB
65	EI3HVB (+6)
64	EI2IV
64	EI4CN (+2)
61	EI4IN (+3)
60	EI5GB
60	EI5GN (+3)
60	EI5ASB
59	EI4GD
58	EI7IS
57	EI1509
57	EI2HRB
56	EI8H (+1)
55	EI8JW
55	EI6GGB
54	EI7GEB
53	EI1429
53	EI7CHB
52	EI3EBB
51	EI4GMB
50	EI2BWB
50	EI9GRB (+1)
49	EI7CEB (+2)
47	EI7GM
47	EI9KG (+1)
46	EI1665
45	EI7GBB
44	EI4DIB
41	EI2FS
41	EI5HT
41	EI3GGB (+1)
40	EI1666
40	EI7CSB (+1)
39	EI4HX
38	EI2HZB
38	EI3GDB
35	EI8JA
31	EI3FFB
31	EI7GZB
29	EI2HEB (+1)
28	EI8GGB
25	EI9GNB

24	EI1627 (New)
24	EI8GNB
	<b>Worked Prefixes</b>
1,749	EI4CF (+10)
1,719	EI6JK (+19)
1,686	EI9E (+25)
1,673	EI7CC (+35)
1,578	EI9JU (+12)
1,444	EI8GS (+21)
1,363	EI7JN (+7)
1,344	EI2JD
1,343	EI3KG (+40)
1,332	EI0CZ (+22)
1,296	EI9FBB (+8)
1,289	EI3CTB (+35)
1,269	EI1DG (+23)
1,259	EI0W (+3)
1,250	EI2KC (+23)
1,226	EI9KC (+27)
1,213	EI4GXB (+8)
1,178	EI9HQ (+12)
1,164	EI7JK (+12)
1,118	EI2GLB (+6)
1,098	EI8FH (+36)
1,012	EI3IO (+7)
1,006	EI7GSB (+32)
999	EI7JZ (+50)
995	EI7BA (+7)
994	EI4GNB (+55)
994	EI9FVB (+28)
989	EI2II (+31)
946	EI8IU (+35)
940	EI8BLB (+37)
923	EI6AL (+14)
922	EI5HV (+32)
884	EI4BZ (+2)
882	EI3KI (+25)
853	EI3HDB (+37)
830	EI3GAB (+14)
815	EI5JQ (+17)
785	EI4GAB (+9)
776	EI3GYB (+29)
771	EI3JB (+53)
769	EI8IQ (+15)
762	EI9O (+2)
743	EI5IF (+8)
722	EI3KE (+18)
693	EI5GSB (+16)
674	EI5GM (+6)
668	EI8JB (+3)
663	EI8HL (+15)
655	EI9GSB (+11)
621	EI4KE (+11)
615	EI9GLB (+32)
588	EI5GJB (+2)
582	EI9JM
559	EI3HA (+7)
528	EI4HH (+6)
507	EI3IS (+5)
487	EI9GTB (+1)
484	EI7IX (+11)
451	EI2HW
437	EI8GP (+4)
414	EI0PL (+5)
350	EI6ARB (New)
347	EI4HLB (+25)
336	EI3HVB (+63)
317	EI3HMB
121	EI4DIB





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**For Sale:** Tarheel 300A Mobile Screwdriver Antenna 200W PEP 160m - 6m 5' whip included. Also includes heavy duty Breedlove solid brass ballmount €450, €380 without the ballmount.

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EI8DRB gerryk@gmail.com, 087 799 6336

**For Sale:** Kenwood TM-V71E 2m/70cm transceiver DTMF, mike, in PWO, original box, manual €280.

Signalink SL-1+ €50 or €300 for both items.

Joe EI4GX 083 181 3548

**Wanted:** HRO 5 or Senior receiver. BC348 and ART-13 transmitter.

Jim EI2BB james.r.bart@gmail.com  
087 261 2428 or 057 864 8589

**For Sale:** ATV transceivers, ready to operate €99. Ronnie kellselec@kels.ie, 086 257 5395

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Send your ad before the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.

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## Silent Key Sale

The following items are for sale to the highest bidder by 23rd January 2015.

Bids, in writing and by post (sealed envelopes only), should reach the IRTS Treasurer Dave O'Connor EI6AL, QTHR, on or before that date.

Any bid lower than the disclosed reserve for an item, even if the sole bid, will not be considered. All items are sold "as is" and without warranty — they are not available for inspection.

Successful bidders will have one week to pay for and collect the items and a further week to confirm their satisfaction with the equipment.

**Kenwood TS-990** flagship 200w HF/6m transceiver, complete with printed manual and matching speaker **SP-990**, together with Kenwood **MC-60A** desktop mic. The items are boxed, and as new (no box for the SP-990). To be sold as one lot. Current new price for TS-990 and SP-990 is £6,000 (€7,500+). Reserve €5,299

**Ameritron ALS600** no-tune 600w FET solid-state HF 160-10m amp, complete with matching power supply. UK price new £1,600 (€2,000+). Reserve €1,099

**Elecraft KX3** 10w all-mode ultra-portable HF & 6m transceiver, general coverage receive - with printed manual. Uses any 12/13.8v supply, or 8 AA

rechargeable (NiMH) or standard alkaline batteries. UK price new £960 (€1200+). Reserve €719

**Yaesu FT817** HF/VHF/UHF. As new, boxed, with mic. Reserve €299

**Tokyo HL-508** 50w HF/50MHz power amp. Reserve €150

**SGC SG-239** HF Smarttuner. Reserve €99

**FG-01** Antenna Analyser 1-78MHz, colour display. As new. Internal lithium battery. No charger. Reserve €99

**Kenwood TH-F7** 144/430 dual-band handheld. No charger. Reserve €49

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Alinco DR135. 50w 2-metre mobile, wide RX.....	€139.00
Alinco EDX-1. Manual HF Antenna Tuner.....	€149.00
Alinco EDX-2. Auto ATU for wire antenna.....	€229.00
Antron 99 Fibreglass Base Antenna, 10/12m.....	€89.00
BHI NES10-2. DSP - Adjustable Noise Eliminating Speaker .....	€60.00
Diamond Antenna MX-62M Duplexer.....	€49.00
Heil Sound Goldline GM-4 Mic. Boxed - mint condition. ....	€129.00
Icom AT-180. Matching ATU for IC-7000. ....	€299.00
Icom IC-7000. HF to 70cms. Boxed. As new.....	€999.00
Icom IC-718. HF budget rig. Simple operation. ....	€499.00
Icom IC-7800. Flagship HF Rig. Current new €11600, now .....	€6999.00
Icom IC-PCR1500. Computer-controlled Receiver.....	€399.00
Icom IC-R75 Receiver. 30kHz-60MHz, DSP Unit fitted, mint .....	€499.00
Icom IC-R8500 Receiver. 0-2000MHz, All Mode, Boxed, VGC. ....	€1099.00
Icom SP-21. External base speaker - as new .....	€85.00
Icom UT-106. DSP Unit for IC-706 etc. ....	€75.00
Kenwood MC-80. Desk mike for all Kenwood radios .....	€79.00
Kenwood TS-50S 100w Mobile HF Rig. Good condition.....	€499.00
KPO SPS-9400. 40 amp Switch Mode Power Supply .....	€140.00
MFJ-214. Amplifier Saver.....	€50.00
MFJ-914. Auto Tuner Extender .....	€59.00
MFJ-936B. Loop Antenna Tuner .....	€199.00
MFJ-969. Manual ATU, AirCore Roller Inductor, 160-6m .....	€225.00
Microwave Modules MML 432/100 - 100w 70cm Amp.....	€199.00
Realistic DX-394. Entry-Level Shortwave Receiver .....	€149.00
Realistic PRO-2006 Hyperscan Base Scanner. 25 - 1300MHz..	€149.00
Ten-Tec Jupiter 538. Boxed in good Condition .....	Call
Uniden Bearcat UBC785XLT Scanner 25-1300MHz.....	€199.00
Watson 20amp Switched Mode Power Supply - as new .....	€65.00
Yaesu DMU. Data Management Unit for Yaesu range.....	€799.00
Yaesu FC-30. Auto ATU for FT897 & FT857 .....	€199.00
Yaesu FT DX 9000MP. Top Range Rig. Current new €10800 ..	€7250.00
Yaesu FT-2000. 100w base HF transceiver - as new .....	€1799.00
Yaesu FT-5100. Dual-Band Mobile transceiver 2m/70cm.....	€189.00
Yaesu FT-736R. Classic Base Station. 6m + 2m + 70cm .....	€799.00
Yaesu FT-950. 100w HF + 6m. Auto-ATU, DSP - Mint .....	€1149.00
Yaesu MD-100A8X Dynamic Desk Mic, Boxed, Mint .....	€109.00
Yaesu MD-1 Dynamic Desk Mic for older Yaesu rigs.....	€99.00
Yaesu SP-102. Base-stn Spr - FT767, FT736R etc. Filters .....	€99.00
Yaesu SP-8. Base-stn Spkr - FT1000 etc. Filters. Boxed, Mint....	€119.00



**Yaesu FT DX 5000D - Call for best price**



**Yaesu FT DX 3000 HF/50 MHz 100w - Call**



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